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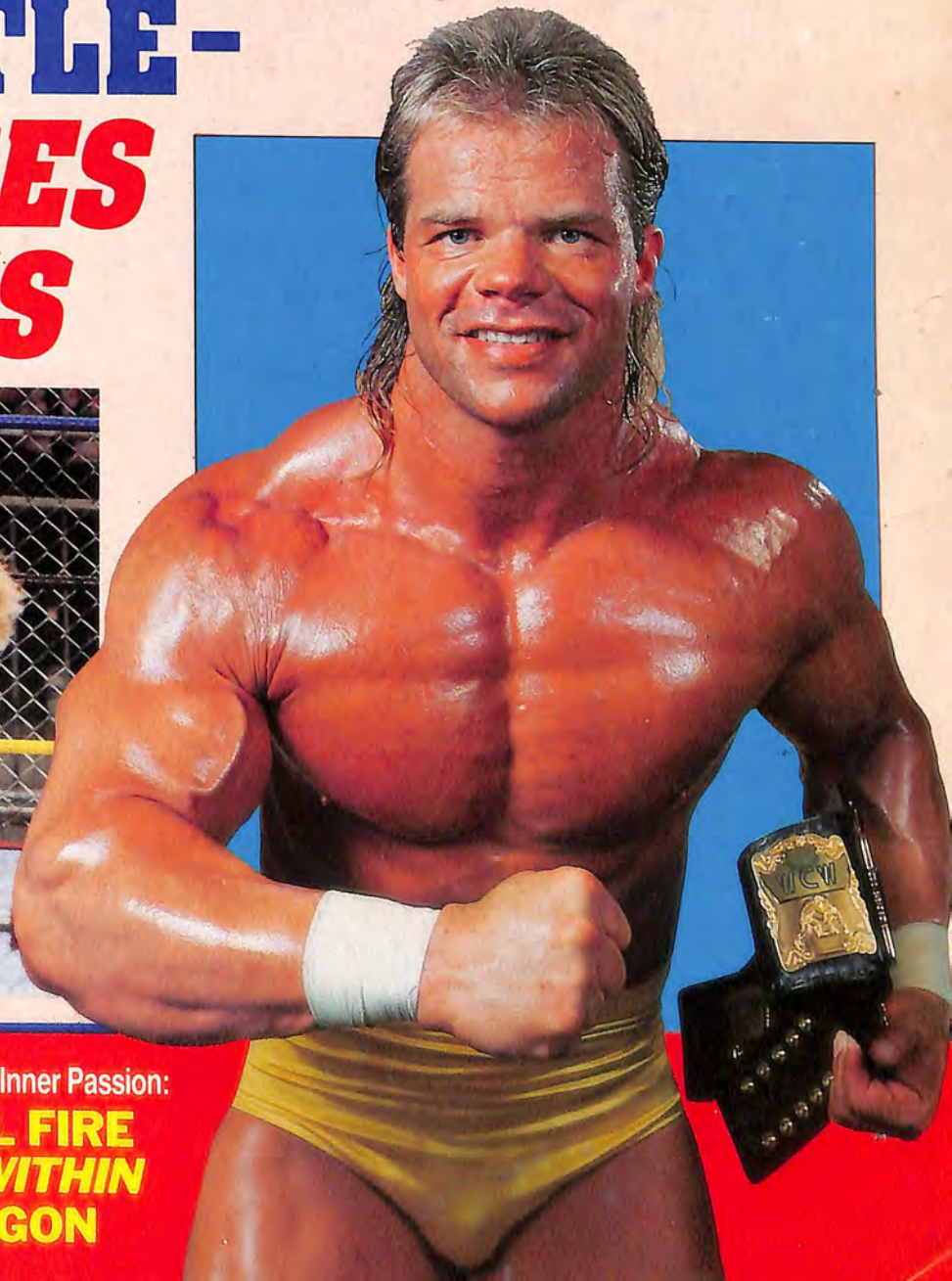
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THE Wrestler

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LETTERS

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A TRUE CLASSIC

I couldn't agree more with your story, "The Steiners vs. Sting & Luger: How Their Friendships Survived The Most Brutal Match Of The Year" (September 1991). It truly was

a classic encounter. These men went at it with all their hearts, without regard to ruining great friendships.

The Steiners have too much respect for Sting and Lex Luger (and vice versa) to allow one bout to

change the way they view each other. Unlike many others in this sport, these men realize that you can go all-out against a man and then shake his hand immediately after the match.

Let's hope we see more of these types of matches. The sport will be better off for it.

HOWARD DENTON
Palm Beach, FL



Scott Steiner suplexes Lex Luger during the Steiners vs. Luger and Sting bout at SuperBrawl '91. Howard Denton says this match proves friends can wrestle each other.

BEAUTIFUL, BOBBY

Here's a big "thumbs up" to Bobby Eaton. Sure, he lost the WCW TV belt to Steve Austin, but Bobby has proven he's a champion through and through. Reading "The Pride Of A Champion: Finally—Bobby Eaton Makes It On His Own!" (September 1991) reconfirmed that belief for me.

Free of the shackles imposed on him by Jim Cornette and his obligations with The Midnight Express, Eaton is demonstrating the greatness he couldn't display when Cornette was holding him back. That doesn't mean that he didn't do great things as Stan Lane's tag team partner, it just means he's able to do more outstanding holds and maneuvers.

Don't bet against Eaton in his attempts to regain the TV belt from Austin. And perhaps he'll even go after the U.S. or World champion-



Bobby Eaton may not be WCW TV champion, but, in reader Rhonda Forbes' view, he's a cinch to wear championship gold again.

ships. In fact, he's a good enough competitor to hold two belts at the same time.

RHONDA FORBES
Hicksville, NY

GOOD LOOK BACK

Matt Brock has done it again. He has come up with a match that I never knew took place. In his "Looking Back" (September 1991), he featured a 1981 bout between former AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel and Tito Santana. I had no idea that those two men had ever wrestled. As far as I knew, Santana had only competed in the WWF (and, more recently, IWCCW).

That's why I really enjoy reading Brock. I've only been a fan for about five years, and he tells me about matches that have taken place in the past. He gives me a monthly history lesson in the sport.

DEENA CURTIN
Newport News, VA

TWO SADISTS

Are there two wrestlers out there who enjoy cutting up each other more than Eddie Gilbert and Cactus Jack? Apparently not, as I've learned after reading "Eddie Gilbert's Sadistic Vow: 'If I Can't Beat Cactus Jack, I'll Bleed Him Dry!'" (September 1991).

Both of them are absolutely out of their minds, which is not surprising at all. Remember, Gilbert is the man who ran down Jerry Lawler with a car, while Cactus routinely executes daring and death-defying maneuvers.

Here's the answer: Put them on an island where they won't be able to hurt anyone but themselves and let them go at it. That's the only way the feud will be settled. That's the only way it should be done.

KAREN ALBRIGHT
Boston

NOT DISAPPOINTED

"The Legion Of Doom: WWF Disappointment" (September 1991)? No way! I cannot believe that you would write that.

Hawk and Animal have done ev-
(Continued on page 48)



Watching Hawk blast The Nasty Boys causes reader Jo Greenwell to believe that The Legion of Doom has been anything but disappointing in the WWF.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

THE WORLD WRESTLING Federation will soon begin testing for anabolic steroids as part of its anti-drug policy. The announcement of the the new regulation for WWF wrestlers was made in July by WWF head **Vince McMahon**.

The federation was the subject of several negative television and print media reports following the conviction of **Dr. George T. Zahorian**, who formerly served as ringside physician at WWF events in Pennsylvania. In June, Zahorian was convicted on 12 of 14 counts of selling anabolic steroids to four pro wrestlers and a weightlifter in a trial held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

To combat the crush of publicity that surfaced as a result of the trial, McMahon announced that he was adding testing for anabolic steroids to the WWF's previously implemented testing for other illegal drugs.

"It is with the public trust in mind that we will now include mandatory testing and education as part of our program," McMahon wrote in an article that appeared in the July 14 edition of *The New*



Vince McMahon is instituting a steroid-testing program in the WWF that, he claims, will be "the standard for all professional athletes, leagues, and sports."

York Times. "This program will no longer be administered by us, but rather by an independent agency. This way, the WWF and its athletes will be beyond reproach. We feel this new program will be so comprehensive as to be the standard for all professional athletes, leagues, and sports."

From my perspective, I hope the WWF's new program will be a worthy and effective one. In light of the problems of former WWF champion "**Superstar**" **Billy Graham** and former NFL star **Lyle Alzado**—whose bodies have both been ravaged, apparently because of their past steroid use—I also hope all wrestling federations will join the WWF and make sure the use of these dangerous drugs is curtailed forever.

Speaking of the WWF, World champion **Hulk Hogan** continues to keep his belt away from the clutches of former champion **Sgt. Slaughter**, but he seems to be getting quite a bit of help from an unlikely source: **Randy Savage**.

The "Macho Man" was the special referee for Hogan's rematch against Slaughter on July 14 in St. Louis, and it was Savage's actions that spelled victory for the champion. Late in the bout, Slaughter brought a steel chair into the ring—but Savage grabbed the chair and crashed it over the former Marine's head! Moments later, Hogan scored the winning pinfall.

In addition, Savage, who's been suspended since losing his retirement match to **The Ultimate Warrior** at *WrestleMania VII*, was allowed to wrestle against Slaughter in two matches on July 20 in Kentucky—at the request of Hogan himself! Could it be that the former **Megapowers** partners have become friends again? For more on this subject, don't miss the November 1991 edition of *Inside Wrestling*, which contains the results of an exclusive investigation on this odd situation.



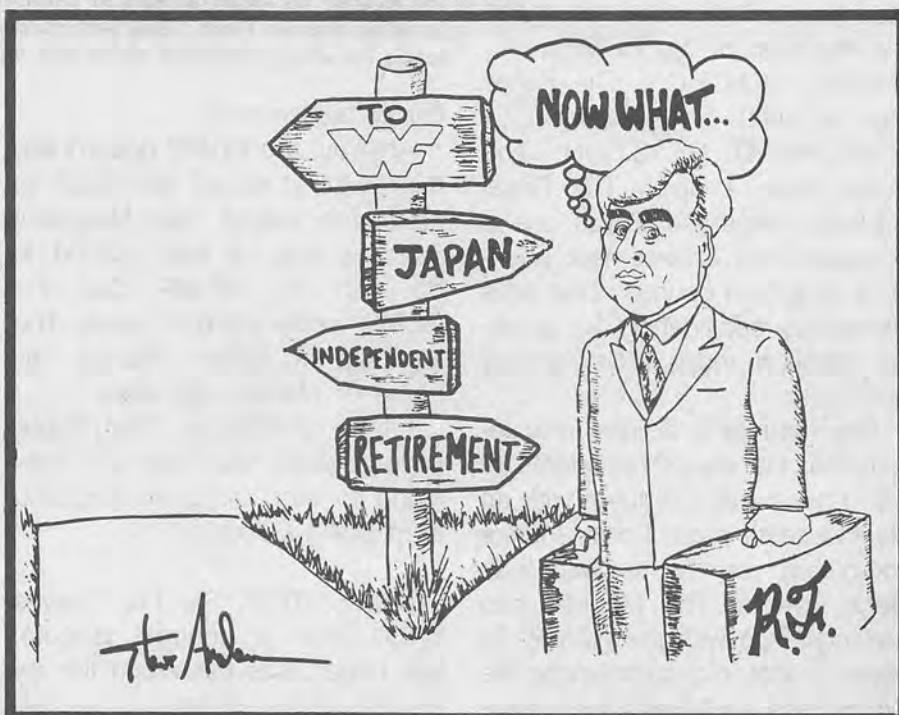
Scott and Rick Steiner may have been stripped of the WCW World tag team championship, but they continue to hold the IWGP tag team title.

Rick and Scott Steiner may have been stripped of the WCW World tag team title after Scott was forced out of action with a torn left bicep, but the popular brothers are *still* champions. Officials of

New Japan wrestling have announced that the Steiners are still the IWGP titlists pending their return to action. The Steiners won that title from **Hiro Hase** and

(Continued on page 52)

STEVE ANDERSON'S VIEW



NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

MORE FROM THE files of perception vs. reality. As I pointed out a few months ago in my September 1991 "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column in *Inside Wrestling*, our first gut reaction to events is often much different than our informed reaction and, ultimately, our final opinion. Especially after we have all of the facts in order.

Here goes. Part two.

NEWS ITEM: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have complained to the WWF about The Mountie's behavior and his apparent depiction of the RCMP.

FIRST REACTION: The Police have a point.

INFORMED REACTION: The Police have a point. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are a respected law enforcement agency in their own country. That says something, considering the general disregard these days for law and order.

The Mountie's actions are despicable. He slams opponents to the canvas and jolts them with an electric cattle prod. Folks, there's something very wrong with that. Heck, even if The Mountie had nothing to do with the RCMP, I'd object to that. Not surprisingly, the WWF finds such behavior unwor-



The Mountie no longer appears in Canadian rings, thanks to the efforts of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They were concerned that the vicious rulebreaker was giving people the wrong impression about their organization.

thy of punishment.

Anyway, the RCMP doesn't like this at all. It forced the WWF to announce before The Mountie's matches that he had nothing to do with the RCMP. But the RCMP wants more. It wants The Mountie to either change his name or change his ways.

FINAL OPINION: The Police have a point. But how are they going to stop Jacques Rougeau from being Canadian?

NEWS ITEM: Ric Flair leaves WCW after a contract dispute. Lex Luger wins the World title by pinning Barry Windham at the

Great American Bash in Baltimore.

FIRST REACTION: How else was Luger ever going to win the title?

INFORMED REACTION: Flair's departure ends an era, but it's not exactly a disaster for WCW and its wrestlers. Maybe that's why Flair and WCW reached an impasse: If either really wanted to settle on a contract, they would have. They didn't. They didn't want to.

Flair dominated the World title for the last decade. He held it seven times and was involved in

(Continued on page 54)

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BY BOB SMITH

THE KING

SO JUST WHO is the world heavyweight wrestling champion? I used to think I knew the answer to that question . . . then I went on a working vacation.

In mid-July, all hell was breaking loose in the USWA. A huge masked sadist named Leatherface, who obviously was patterning himself after the serial killer in the classic horror film *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, had worked his way into contention for the USWA title—and used his real, running chainsaw to carve up several rings and television studios in the process.

In addition, a couple of motorcycle-riding thugs called The Barroom Brawlers fluked their way to the USWA tag team title when they copped a disqualification win over Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller.

Add the feud between Tom Prichard and Tony Anthony to the mix, and you had some pretty hot stuff during a very hot month. I wanted an up-close look, so I boarded a Northwest Airlines flight out of New York and headed to Memphis . . . or should I call it Jerry Lawler Land?

Spending a few days in this surprisingly cultured, immaculately clean Southern city brought a surprising revelation to me: Ask almost any fan in Tennessee, Indiana, or Arkansas (the areas where the USWA promotes the most) who the world champion is, and the answer will invariably be USWA champion Jerry Lawler. It amazed me, but it's true: WWF champion Hulk Hogan and WCW titlist Lex Luger don't even figure into the equation among most of the populace in that region.

"Lawler's the greatest I've ever seen," enthused Phil Hawkins of Nashville as he watched Lawler's lumberjack bout against Eric Embry at "Music City's" Sports Arena. "Sure, some people got on Jerry when he was stripped of the AWA title in 1989, but to me it's not the belt a champion wears—it's how hard he wrestles for his fans. In that regard, 'The King' puts every other champion in the sport to shame. He's legendary in these parts because of it."

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In Memphis, Jerry Lawler's face is everywhere

Lawler on a billboard for Airport Toyota. Lawler's popularity in Memphis is second only to the *musical* "King," Elvis Presley.

"Back in my AWA days, I traveled all around the world defending the AWA title," said Lawler as he laced up his boots in preparation for his bout against Leatherface at the Pipkin Building. "Even though I was gaining respect throughout the sport, something was always missing. I don't want to come across as too provincial, but I really missed my Memphis fans. It just wasn't the same if I wasn't competing for them during the USWA's regular Monday night cards.

"You know, it's kind of funny," said Lawler as he grabbed his crown and started to head out to the ring. "Your magazines don't give me the credit for it I deserve, but I consider myself a world champion. I compete in several major cities, and I defend my USWA belt against the very best competition I can find. Just ask these fans. They're the ones whose opinions really count. They know who the *real* world champion is."

Lawler was brilliant against the hulking Leatherface that evening, pinning the befuddled masked man after Leatherface fell backward over referee Frank Morell. When the pin was scored, the nearly sold-out house responded with an ovation so deafening that it reminded me of the day Hulk Hogan won the WWF World title from The Iron Sheik in 1984 at New York's Madison Square Garden.

So who's the world champion? It really depends on what world you're in. And if you live near Tennessee, your world is in very good hands. □



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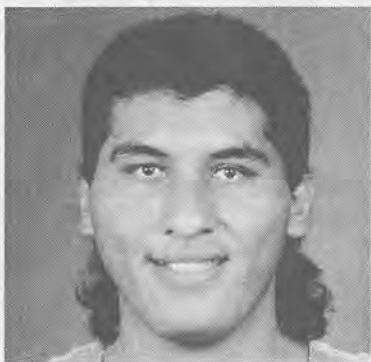
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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Randy Savage. The "Macho Man" has defeated some of the most dangerous wrestlers in the world. He is the former WWF World champion. He battled Hulk Hogan and he has held off brutal attacks. But Savage passed the greatest test of his manhood when he got down on his knees and proposed marriage to Elizabeth. Savage surrendered himself. With millions of people watching, he declared his love for Elizabeth. For some men, beating up others is the proof of manliness. But Savage, who for months was nervous about proposing to Elizabeth, put aside his nerves and asked for what he wanted. It couldn't have been easy. Quite suddenly, Savage has become an example for all of us. There's more than one side to every man, even the "Macho Man."



Thumbs Up to El Gigante. Check out the singles results of the Great American Bash July 14 in Baltimore and you're not going to find much to get excited about. Almost every rulebreaker won, and even Lex Luger—a fan favorite when his match with Barry Windham started—turned bad after winning the WCW World title. Well, at least Gigante won. The Argentinian big man scored an important pinfall victory over One Man Gang and waltzed right back into contention for the title. Now WCW fans, after a disastrous night, have something to look forward to. Thanks, Gigante, for saving the night. Now all you have to do is save the entire federation.

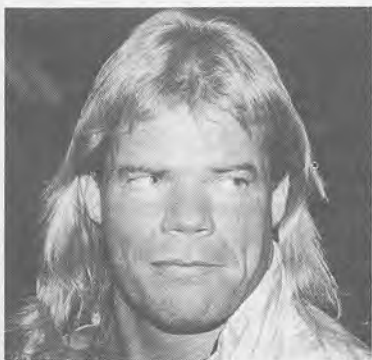


Thumbs Up to Steve Williams. This quote from the July 22 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* speaks volumes about "Dr. Death," the UWF TV champion. Said Williams of his teaming with former enemy Terry Gordy: "Thinking back, it seems really strange that Terry and I used to despise each other. But at the same time, we respected one another. This is why we were able to set aside our differences and form a team. Without mutual respect, a team would be impossible." Williams now understands that you don't have to be best friends with your partners. You don't even have to like them. But respect is everything, and Williams no longer only respects himself. He has grown as a man.



Thumbs Up to Jeff Jarrett. An article in this issue details a bet between Eric Embry and Jerry Lawler over how long the Jarrett-Robert Fuller partnership will last. Well, we're with Lawler on this one. Jarrett has proven time and time again that he is one of the most trustworthy men in the sport. He has the rare ability to convert men from bad to good. Fuller is his latest convert. And because Jarrett is a man of such genuine honesty, we believe this fruitful partnership will last. Thanks, Jeff. You constantly restore our faith in the sport.

Thumbs Down



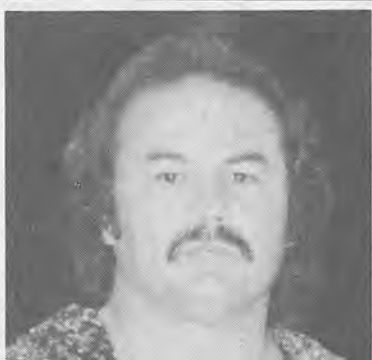
Thumbs Down to Lex Luger. Having achieved the greatest victory of his career, a win over Barry Windham for the WCW World championship at the July 14 Great American Bash, Luger then turned around and made another bad mistake. He's so good at that. Luger, to the shock and dismay of his devoted and oft-forgiving fans, announced that he had taken on Harley Race as his adviser. In other words, Luger is now a rulebreaker. All Luger had to do was page through his personal history to realize that he has always done better on his own and as a fan favorite. The Four Horsemen and manager J.J. Dillon did him wrong. Race will do no better for Luger. It's a shame that this magnificent athlete continues to mess up his own career. Our prediction is that with Race at his side, Luger won't have the belt for long. What a shame! It took him so long to get it.



Thumbs Down to Jerry Lawler. For a fan favorite, Lawler seems to spend a lot of time in this space. This time, we're condemning Lawler for yet another brutal act: throwing fire at Leatherface. Lawler was able to pin Leatherface after doing so and the crowd cheered, but what exactly were they celebrating? An illegal act by a man supposedly on the side of good. It's unfortunate that Lawler knows he can get away with so much. The fans and federation officials always seem to side with him. But Lawler should start practicing what he preaches. The "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" mentality is extremely dangerous if practiced in wrestling. Lawler should try to set a good example, not imitate the things his supposedly bad enemies do.



Thumbs Down to Vince McMahon Jr. The war is over, Vince. The world is trying to return to normal. But in your deluded mind, the Persian Gulf War continues. You and your promoters continue to allow matches such as Hulk Hogan vs. Sgt. Slaughter and Hacksaw Duggan vs. Col. Mustafa in an attempt to capitalize on this country's patriotic feelings. Enough already! Slaughter lost the World title to Hogan and has had more than his fair share of rematches. Duggan vs. Mustafa exists for one reason only: In the world of the WWF, the war is still going on. Well, Vince, who cares if these men still haven't settled their differences. Do the settling. Stop their matches. Force them to go on to something else. The world is waiting . . . impatiently.



Thumbs Down to Al Madril. For one of the most heinous offenses we've seen in years, Madril deserves to be banned from not only the Pacific Northwest, but all of wrestling. On a recent PNW card, Madril attacked referee Sandy Barr with a pipe. We're talking armed assault with a deadly weapon. Barr had to be carried from the ring on a stretcher. According to wrestling psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil, it's possible that Barr will live with the memory of this attack for the rest of his life. Madril must be punished. The PNW cannot allow its wrestlers to get away with such dangerous acts. □

CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

Providence, RI (Correspondent—Peter Quigley): WWF World champion Hulk Hogan has teamed with Hacksaw Duggan on several occasions, but never under such unusual circumstances: For their bout against Sgt. Slaughter and Col. Mustafa, the special referee was "Macho Man" Randy Savage!

At the start of the bout, Slaughter offered to shake Savage's hand, but "Macho Man" wisely refused. During the match, Savage prevented Mustafa and Slaughter from double-teaming Hogan and Duggan, who controlled the pace of the match until Slaughter, Mustafa, and Gen. Adnan began using illegal tactics.

As Mustafa distracted Savage, Adnan threw powder in Hogan's face, causing the champion to collapse to the mat. As Slaughter climbed to the top rope to pounce on the fallen Hogan, Savage began a 10-count on Slaughter. After they began arguing, Slaughter threw Savage out of the ring.

While Duggan and Mustafa fought outside the ring, Slaughter put a camel clutch on Hogan. Savage climbed to the top turnbuckle and blasted Slaughter with a flying elbowsmash. As the rule-breakers retreated to the locker room, Savage declared Hogan



WWF World champion Hulk Hogan and Hacksaw Duggan show their colors as they enter the ring before a critical bout against Sgt. Slaughter and Col. Mustafa.

and Duggan the winners by disqualification because Slaughter had thrown him out of the ring.

In other bouts: Greg Valentine pinned Haku'... Rick Steamboat defeated The Barbarian... The Rockers beat Dino Bravo & Paul Roma... Warlord defeated Virgil

by disqualification... Animal pinned Jerry Sags... Davey Boy Smith defeated Typhoon by countout.

Portland, OR (Correspondent—Kenn Jones): Sandy Barr was content with being the PNW's top referee, until Al Madril came along and started making trouble for him. The bad blood between them necessitated this blindfold match at the Sports Arena.

The referee for the match was wrestler C.W. Bergstrom, but Madril showed absolutely no respect for his authority. He pounced on Bergstrom, brutally attempting to injure his right knee. While Bergstrom was down, Madril ripped off his blindfold and went after Barr, who, because he was still blindfolded, could do little to fend off the attack.

Then Madril pulled off an amazing bit of trickery. He threw himself over the top rope, but Bergstrom, thinking Barr had initiated the move, called for a disqualification. It was the latest proof of just how low Madril will stoop to win.

In other bouts: Steve Sawyer defeated The Grappler by reverse decision... Jimmy Jack Funk pinned Mike Winner... John

(Continued on page 56)

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From the Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro, N.C. Coliseum. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnights on a scaffold; "First Blood" match: Rhodes vs. Blanchard, Ron Garvin vs. Big Bubba; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Anderson in a cage; Jones vs. Valiant.

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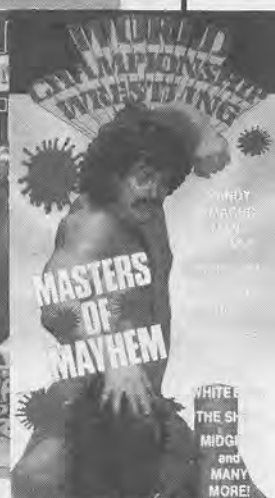
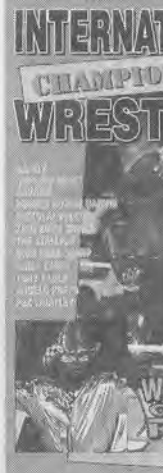
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Q: "My question is for Jim Cornette: Why don't you reunite the greatest tag team ever—The Midnight Express—and go after the WWF World tag team championship? After all, you've accomplished all that was possible in WCW."—Jess Giovannelli, Perryopolis, PA

A: "This guy Giovannelli is obviously an astute observer of the wrestling scene," responded the always-verbose Cornette. "He's right in saying the Express was the finest tandem in history. Together, Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane were an unbeatable unit that was fueled by my brain power, and we garnered more championships than anyone else. Unfortunately—at least for now—I have to say that the Express is derailed. Bobby's been enjoying a lot of success in WCW on his own, and Stan has his eyes set on the new Global heavyweight championship. As for the WWF, I agree that if the three of us could

YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers **ALL** your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: **YOU ASKED US**, c/o **THE WRESTLER**, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

his big, flabby belly and rip the fat right off him. Then, I'm gonna grab Slater's ponytail and fling him around in the air until he's as bald as a cueball. Then I'm gonna stretch Murdoch over the top rope and jump up and down on his carcass until he spits out his false teeth. Then I'll take Slater, climb up to the top turnbuckle, and wreck him with my belly-to-belly suplex . . . you get the picture. It won't be until Scott comes back—and we waste both of those old-timers—that I'll be my old, lovable self again."



Eric Embry says people who knock his manager, Tojo Yamamoto, are morons.

Q: "Please pass this question along to USWA Southern champion Eric Embry: Why did you hire Tojo Yamamoto as your manager? I mean, there are a lot of managers in this sport, and Tojo doesn't seem to be doing a whole lot for your career."—Mike Mitgrange, Bucksport, TN

A: "That just shows what you know about wrestling, moron Mitgrange," spit Embry. "Mr. Yamamoto was not only one of the finest competitors of the '50s and '60s, but he was among the most intelligent wrestlers around, too. How else do you think that he was able to throw salt in his opponent's eyes for years and never get caught? He's instilled that kind of rulebreaking acumen into my soul, and now I'm unbeatable. In addition, Tojo's managerial efforts are

(Continued on page 58)



Jim Cornette says if The Midnight Express ever got together again, they'd be a cinch to win the WWF World tag team title, or any other set of belts.

ever get together again, we'd be sensational in that league. Who're the champions there—The Nasty Boys? Don't make me laugh!"

Q: "This one is for Rick Steiner: What are you and your brother Scott going to do to The Hardliners—Dick Murdoch and Dick Slater—for attacking you? I

hope you beat the pure hell out of them!"—Helen Chase, La Belle, FL

A: "Just you wait and see what Scotty and I have planned," said a seething Rick Steiner. "Scotty's gonna be out a while longer with his ripped bicep, but every day he's out, I just get madder and madder. First, I'm gonna grab Murdoch by

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Who was Hulk Hogan's first WWF manager?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1) Fred Blassie | 3) Jimmy Hart |
| 2) Arnold Skaaland | 4) Elizabeth |

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Jake Roberts | 3) King Kong Bundy |
| 2) Hawk | 4) Buzz Sawyer |

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Kansas City Chiefs | 3) Cincinnati Bengals |
| 2) Los Angeles Rams | 4) Atlanta Falcons |

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| 1) Manchuria | 3) New Jersey |
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INTRODUCING

THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES

IN THEIR LOCKER room before an IWCCW tag team title defense against Ivan and Scott Putski, Mike Samson and G.Q. Stratus—The Billion-Dollar Babies—began a rather peculiar prebout workout

The bleached-blond Stratus reached into the golf bag of his manager, Kevin “The Truth” Casey, and pulled out a five-iron. The giggling Stratus playfully tried to prove his strength by bending the gold-plated club around his back.

“Hey, watch that!” shrieked Casey as he ran into the locker room, grabbing the club from Stratus’ grasp. “That’s our bread and butter you’re messing with!”

For once in Casey’s life, he spoke the truth. Since entering IWCCW in late-1990, Stratus and Samson have twice captured the tag team belts—and Casey’s golf club has been a major factor in both victories. In fact, if it wasn’t for Casey’s constant meddling in the Babies’ matches, their recent championship wins probably

(Continued on page 60)



Much of The Billion-Dollar Babies’ success is built around the interference of their manager, Kevin “The Truth” Casey, who uses a golf club.

Without fanfare, the rugged Billion-Dollar Babies have invaded IWCCW—and have already captured the tag team title twice.

G.Q. Stratus and Mike Samson have long been feared rulebreakers, but the evil mind of Kevin “The Truth” Casey has made these brawling Babies true tag team terrors!

Photos by Bill Apter

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NWA champ Ric Flair comes back from a broken neck to wrestle former champ Terry Funk, & U.S. champ Lex Luger battles Rick Steamboat. Also: Sting vs. Muta; War Games; a battle of wits turns to a battle of fists when Paul E. Dangerously rumbles with Jim Cornette; plus much more!

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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds

Q: Hello, Mr. Studd.

A: Fruit cup, babe. Hello, Liz.

Q: Amazing!

A: What's that?

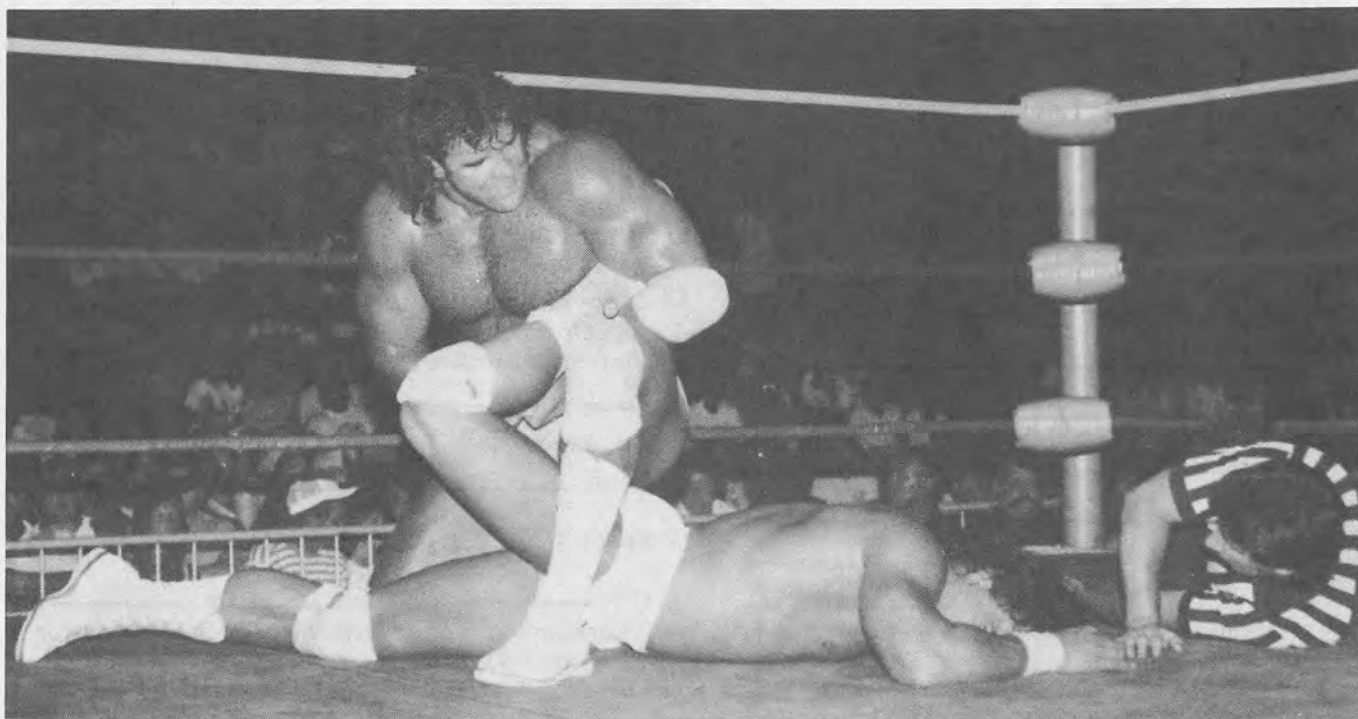
Q: Well, you *speak*! You can actually move your lips and makes sounds! I guess you *do* have a mind of

your own now that your mouth-piece, Dallas Page, is nowhere to be found. This is truly a revelation.

A: Don't be such a smarty-pants scribe, toots. You know, not every pro wrestler wants to spend all his free time with reporters and TV

people. I prefer to keep to myself most of the time. So I hired Page, and the results have been just what I've been looking for. He digs the spotlight, so I just hand all the interviews over to him. That way, I can concentrate on my matches—and Dallas has been getting me nothing but the very best bouts.

Q: I have to agree with you on that one. You're constantly taking on top competition such as Zenk and Tommy Rich. But for a guy who claims he wants out of the spotlight, you certainly don't mind be-



Diamond Studd's first major feud in WCW came against Tom Zenk. His victory over Zenk at the Great American Bash secured a spot for him in the WCW top 10.



THE DIAMOND STUDD

CALL HIM THE strong, silent type. Ever since the hulking newcomer named *The Diamond Studd* burst upon the WCW scene this past spring, manager "Diamond" Dallas Page has dubbed the 6'7", 298-pound bodybuilder the "crown jewel" in his burgeoning Diamond Exchange band of rulebreakers. It's been hard to gauge Studd's outlook, however, since he's said little since entering the federation.

When Page verbally abused popular Tom Zenk on national television during a June broadcast, the "Z-Man" responded by blasting the loudmouthed manager with a hard fist to the face. Studd responded to that by attacking Zenk and ripping the designer suit from his body. Even then, Studd said nothing.

Zenk rebounded from that humiliation by scoring some hard-fought wins over Studd, but Studd exacted a measure of revenge by using a belly-to-belly suplex to pin Zenk at the Great American Bash on July 14 in Baltimore. We can only assume Studd was pleased with the win, since afterward—like always—he said nothing.

In fact, he hasn't said anything about anything. Until now. Contributing Editor Liz Hunter just happened to be in the same Los Angeles restaurant as the Studd—who was surrounded by four gorgeous Diamond Dolls—after a recent card. Surprisingly, Studd agreed to be interviewed while the dessert tray was being wheeled over to his table.

ing surrounded by a bevy of gorgeous women.

A: Hey, you're not so bad yourself, Liz. The only problem I have these days is what to do with the overflow. I can only handle three at a time, anyway.

Q: That's terrible! Women should be treated as individuals, not as playthings you can dispose of at a moment's notice. I don't know why these women want to have anything to do with you at all!

A: You've been reading *New Woman* too much, Hunter. Liz obviously doesn't know how the other half lives, does she, girls? You see, Page, the Dolls, and I live for the moment. Hey, life is short, so you gotta grab it while you can.

Q: You sound like a beer commercial.

A: I don't care what you say. When I first started out in this sport, I tried playing by the rules, but the rulebook don't pay the landlord. Then Page and I worked out my "Diamond death drop," which is like a modified crucifix into a power bomb. Killer! *Nobody* gets up from that one, not even Zenk. And I don't know what it is about Page, but the girls just swarm to him like flies to day-old baloney. I always get more than my fill of pretty women.

Q: But what kind of relationships can you have like this? Go ahead, I dare you. Name all these girls. I'll



Before every match, Studd's manager, "Diamond" Dallas Page, has a woman from the audience pull off Studd's warmup pants as part of a search for a valet.

pay for your feast if you can.

A: Easy! This is Karen, there's Paula, say hello to Sheila . . .

A: (*A brunette corrects him*) Shelly.

Q: Deep commitment there.

A: Aw, it's not your business what I do during my private time, any-

way. You're obviously jealous that these girls have what you can never touch, namely my super-sexy body. So get on with it and ask me some question about wrestling.

Q: I'll be more than happy to. You've picked a fight with Tom Zenk, and

so far your matches have been pretty even. Does it *really* bother you that some women seem to like the way he looks more than they care for your masculine features?

A: Women, women, women! Like I always say, you can't live with 'em . . . and you can't live with 'em. *Ha!* Sure, that pretty boy punk bothers me. I can't stand a guy who stands on such a phony goody-goody platform. It's ridiculous. Zenk is just envious of all the success I've had with the babes recently. I've stolen the hearts of all his fillies, and he's starting to realize there's nobody left for him. So he challenges me to some matches, and naturally I waste him every time.

Q: That's not true at all. I happen to know he's scored some very impressive victories over you.

A: So where are you getting your information? Those are lies, babe. I beat Tommy Turtle every time. I'm twice as strong as he is, so it didn't take much effort. Same with Tommy Rich. I understand he's a former World champion, but you'd never know it the way I manhandled him. I guess that makes me a *future* World champion, eh?

Q: Perhaps. Seems to me you have an unfair advantage with all those Diamond Exchange members hanging around all the time. If you can't beat your opponent, you've got Page, Big Daddy Dink, Jim Garvin, Michael Hayes, and Badstreet all backing you up. If you ask me, it's the worst bunch of rulebreakers since the heyday of The Four Horsemen.

A: So who asked you, anyway? You're starting to get me pretty angry now. When was the last time you saw any of those guys interfere on my behalf? I don't need The Freebirds, I don't need Page, I don't need *nobody* to help me win my matches. I just need my awesome strength and skill. And that's why Lex Luger doesn't have long for that WCW World belt of his.

Q: Are you making a public challenge

here?

A: Did I say that? What I'm trying to tell you is that I'm working my way to the top slowly but surely. I'm beating everyone, and soon the WCW championship committee won't have any other choice but to put me in the ring with the World champion. And I can beat Luger. I could've beaten Ric Flair, too. I'm the wave of the future in WCW, the hottest newcomer around.

Q: Close, but not quite. There's another big man named P.N. News who tells me he'd like nothing better than to get his beefy mitts on you.

A: P.N. News? The singer? The rap guy? *Oh*, sure. Yo baby, yo baby, *barf!* Get outta my face with that bull. All that Armour canned kook can do is shake his bulbous butt

and make up bad poems. I'm *serious* about what I do. I'm destined for greatness, not only to be a contender, but to be a champion. I've got the right attitude, the right physical skills, and the ring management. I'm as serious about wrestling as I am in wining, dining, and thrilling this bevy of beauties that are pawing at this hefty hunk right now.

Q: What is it you girls see in him? You know, you people really disgust me. You say you're a serious wrestler, but your lifestyle is pretty vulgar for my taste. How do you find time to work out?

A: I get plenty of workouts. That's one thing I never skimp on. Every day, in the gym, for two to five hours.

Q: How do you determine how many



Studd says there isn't any doubt in his mind that he can win the WCW World title, but he has to finish with Zenk first, and that won't be easy.



Liz Hunter was so disgusted by Studd's attitude toward women, she ended their interview before she'd asked all her questions.

hours you're going to work out in any given day?

A: That's easy. I do one hour for every girl I've been with the night before (*Studd and the girls giggle*).

Q: You're disgusting.

A: And you're a cow. Get with the times, girl. You gotta live it up, and that's just what Dallas and myself are doing in WCW right now. And we're *really* gonna live when I unveil my new maneuver, a finisher that will make me a legend from the very first time I apply it.

Q: So what is it?

A: That's for me to know, Hunter, for *me* to know. Just watch my matches in the coming weeks. You'll see what I'm up to. And I'll leave the whole wrestling world at my feet, the same way I dispose of my female conquests.

Q: (*standing*) That does it! Mr. Studd, or whatever it is you want to be called, I have to give you credit. You're a fine young wrestler, and I agree you have what it takes to be a contender. But your attitude—especially toward women—is an insult to my gender. I'm terminating this entire interview at once.

A: Great. But if you're gonna leave, do it fast, will ya? That cottage cheese is killin' me! ☐



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SPOT
★LIGHTS...

Every month, *The Wrestler* will comb through its extensive photo files and shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. We'll present unforgettable highlights in the action-packed careers of the sport's greatest stars, culled from the most extensive photographic archives anywhere in the wrestling world!

RON SIMMONS



Ron Simmons had such a great football career at Florida State University, the school retired his number. On the mat, Simmons' current goal is Lex Luger's WCW World belt.

EVEN BEFORE RON Simmons' victory over the mysterious Oz at Baltimore Great American Bash, he knew it was going to be one of the most important matches of his career.

"I knew that if I won, a lot of people would begin to realize that I could really make it again as a singles wrestler," Simmons said. "I don't want people to think of me as a member of Doom anymore. That was a while ago, but folks still remember that."

Indeed, it would be hard to forget Doom, the team that held the WCW

World tag team title from May 19, 1990, to February 24, 1991. Nevertheless, Simmons would rather be remembered for feuding with Reed and Doom manager Teddy Long.

"When Long took the team over from Woman," Simmons recalled, "good things started to happen, I will admit that. To win the World title, we beat a really great team in the Steiners at Capital Combat. But then Teddy started having delusions of grandeur. He believed he could make Butch and me do anything. Well, Reed might have bought that, but not me. I'm my

own man."

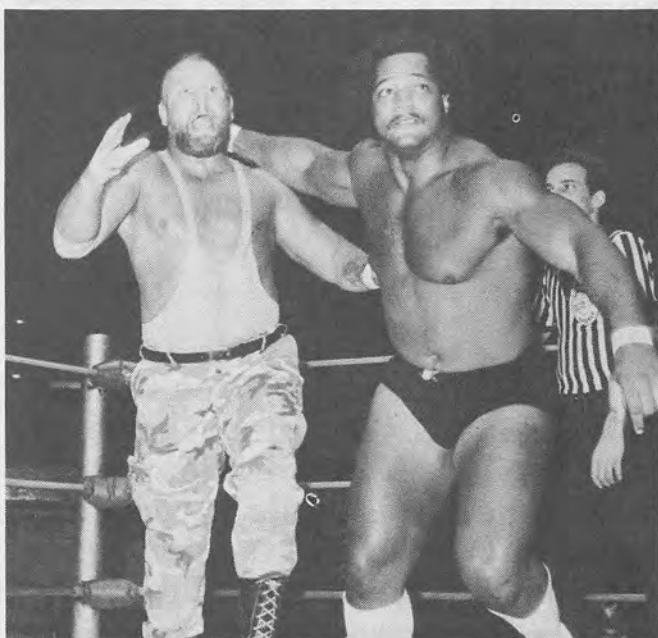
His own man and on the move. His victory over Oz has moved Simmons into contention for Lex Luger's WCW World title. With several upcoming shots against the "Total Package," Simmons is confident that he will at least make a respectable showing.

"Luger and I were good friends once," Simmons said. "He helped me get my start in Florida back in '86. But when we step through those ropes, the old friendship is forgotten, especially now that Luger has turned bad again. Who can trust him anymore? When we meet, I'm certainly going to be on my toes at all times."

Simmons does have experience as a singles champion; in his rookie year of 1986, he captured the old Florida title from Kareem Muhammad. Although it wasn't a major championship, Simmons said it was an important and unforgettable steppingstone in his career.

"I hadn't been competing for too long when I won that belt," he said. "I knew that by beating a tough veteran like Kareem, I had arrived as a wrestler. It gave me the confidence to take me where I am today. Even if I don't beat Luger for the belt, I'm ready for whatever challenges are up the road. It's an exciting time."

As Simmons vies for championship gold, *The Wrestler* takes a look back at some of his greatest moments in the ring.



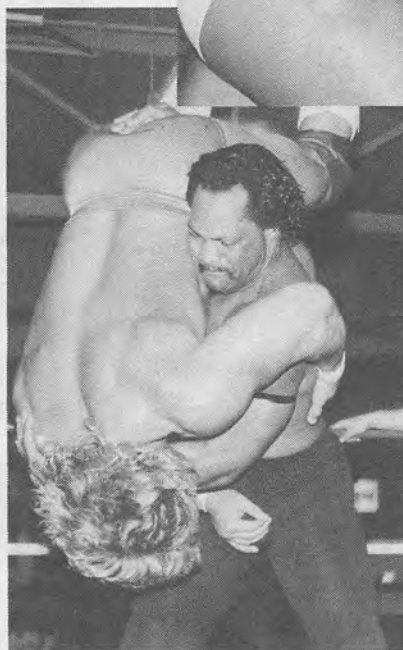
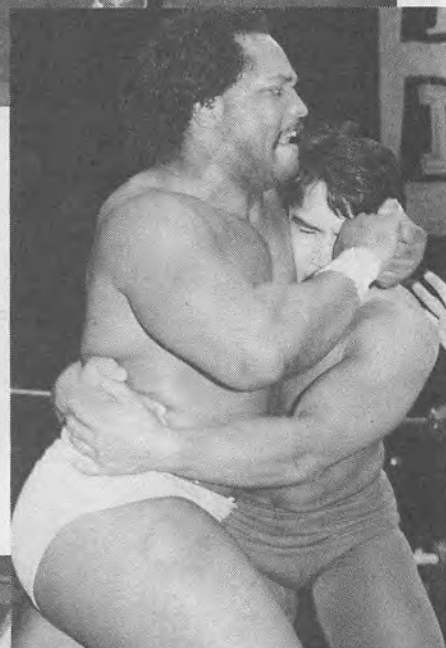
October 1986: One of Simmons' first pro matches came against Bushwhacker Luke Williams (above). November 1988: It's power vs. power as Simmons armlocks another Williams, Steve (below).



November 1988: Simmons' dislike of The Varsity Club led him into bouts against Mike Rotundo (above). April 1989: Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat reluctantly defended the WCW World title against the Florida standout (right).



October 1990: Once Simmons got hold of him, Ric Flair was "doomed" (below). As Doom, Simmons and Butch Reed captured the WCW World tag team title.

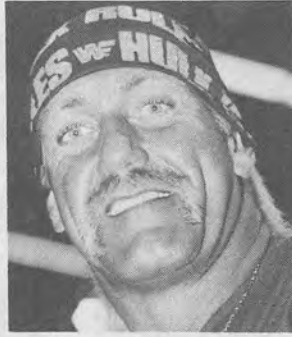


February 1991: Weeks before leaving Doom, Simmons went after U.S. champion Lex Luger (left).



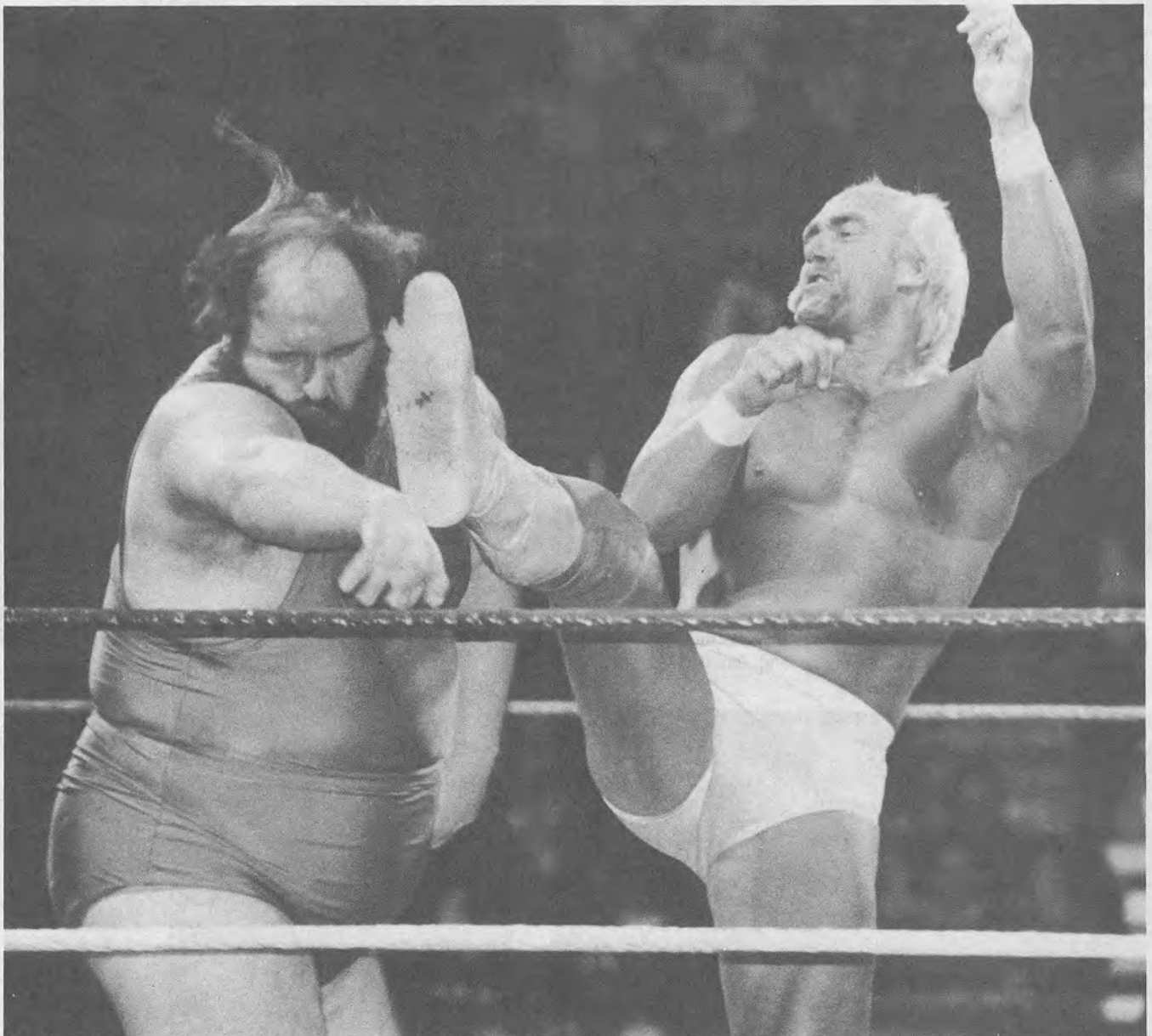
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

RAY



HULK HOGAN

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Three WWF World titles still aren't enough to save Hulk Hogan (vanquishing Earthquake) from the "X-Ray" panel's criticism. The "Hulkster's" detractors question his wrestling ability and quality of opposition.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"If you took every compliment in the English language and rolled them up into one, the big ball of praise would *still* not be enough to extoll the praises of the great Hulk Hogan, daddy. This man has been a credit to his sport, a credit to the WWF, and best of all, he's never forsaken his fans since turning good in 1981. He's defeated all the great ones for the past decade, and he's still going as strong as ever. He's still the man to beat in this game, son."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"I'm sick to my guts of hearing about what a great man Hogan is. If he's such an honorable champion, why hasn't he given The Ultimate Warrior a chance to regain the WWF World title? After all, the Warrior pinned Hogan clean in the middle of the ring at WrestleMania VI. Instead, Hogan's hiding behind his phony patriotism. He claims he wants to rid the U.S. of Sgt. Slaughter, but smart observers realize Hogan's just a paper champion. The big slug makes me puke."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rule-breakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



DORY FUNK JR.

"Hogan's three reigns as WWF champion show just how much the sport has changed during the past 20 years. It wasn't that long ago that men such as myself, my brother, Terry, Jack Brisco, and Bob Backlund were the dominant men on the mat. I wouldn't call any of us weaklings, but we were far superior in all-around wrestling skill than Hogan could ever be. But seven years after he won his first World title, Hogan keeps right on winning. Times have changed."

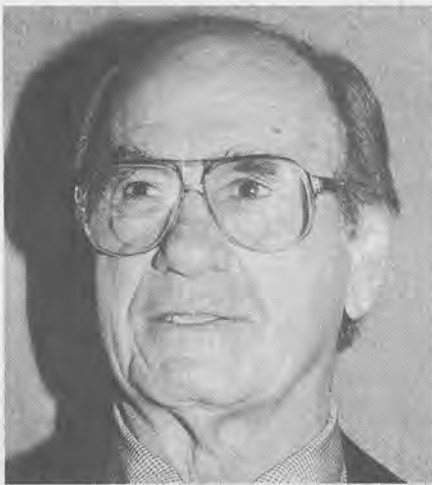
Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA World championship from 1969 to 1973. He still wrestles from time to time.



LARRY HENNIG

"Let me make one thing clear here. Hulk Hogan is *not* the top champion in the WWF. Sure, he may hold the World title, but he's not a true, fighting champion—not like my boy, 'Mr. Perfect' Curt Hennig. Curt takes 'em all on. From Bret Hart to Kerry Von Erich, he's in there against the cream of the crop every night. Hogan would rather wrestle against chronic underachievers such as The Warlord and Sgt. Slaughter. Hogan should've given Curt a title shot long ago."

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"Years ago, I didn't think much of Hogan as a technical wrestler, but he has more skills than he sometimes shows. He flabbergasted me during WrestleMania V, when he regained his title from Randy Savage. During a few moments in that match, Savage actually tried to *wrestle* Hogan, but Hulk matched him hold-for-hold. More recently, I've seen Hogan utilize abdominal stretches, Russian leg sweeps, and suplexes. Anyone who says he can't wrestle at all is dead wrong."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler in history.



JIM ROSS

"I can't complain about Hogan's dominance over the WWF, but the *big* question will probably never be answered: Who's the *real* World champion? Hogan has defeated some fine wrestlers over the past seven years, but he never took on former WCW World champion Ric Flair. He never took on Sting or Rick Steamboat, or even AWA champions Larry Zbyszko or Jerry Lawler or Japanese titleholders. I admire Hogan, but I'd like to see him face more varied opposition."

Jim Ross ranks among the sport's most respected television commentators. He is the host of *World Championship Wrestling* on SuperStation TBS.

GLOBAL WARFARE!

THE HOTTEST NEW ACTION IN WRESTLING

Photos by Buddy Myers & Steve Beyer

By Bob Smith

THEY SAY YOU can't go home again, but Brian Adias did just that. The 12-year veteran, one of the top stars of World Class during the '80s, hadn't competed on a regular basis in Dallas in almost three years.

"Things got kind of stagnant around here," Adias admitted. "I decided I could do better in private business than I could in wrestling."

But then Adias began to hear rumblings about a new wrestling league—the Global Wrestling Federation. He heard that the wrestling organization was based in Barcelona, Spain, and that it had tremendous international financial backing. He also heard that the target state for the debut of its U.S. operations was his native Texas. He still wasn't sure he wanted to get involved.

As the GWF's June debut drew closer, Adias sensed a level of excitement in the Dallas area that he hadn't experienced for several years. He knew Global would be a success. And he knew he wanted to be part of it.

Adias quickly entered his name in the GWF's TV title tournament and began intensive training. He liked his chances, especially considering the fact that the two-day tourney would be held in the familiar surroundings of the Sportatorium.

When he arrived at the famed arena, however, what he saw was hardly familiar.

A brand new ring. Bold, bright lighting. New concession stands. And new faces in the crowd; many of them. In fact, Adias saw a crowd larger than



Norman (above) isn't Norman anymore; he's Makhan Singh, and he's a whole lot meaner than he ever was.

When the Global Wrestling Federation announced it was willing to throw its considerable resources into becoming a worldwide force, the sport's stars quickly took notice. Competitors from all over entered the upstart federation—and the action has been as hot as the blistering Texas sun!



Rasta the Voodoo Mon (above) may be the Global Wrestling Federation's most unusual competitor.

any that had attended a card at that arena in almost two years.

"This can't be the Sportatorium," Adias said. "It doesn't even look like the same place!"

Actually, it isn't. The legendary facility, now referred to as the Global Dome, has been the site of several outstanding cards that have fans from all around the country talking. After almost one year of negotiations, behind-the-scenes meetings, and contract talks, the Global Wrestling Federation is ready to make its mark on the U.S. wrestling scene.

"I'm glad we could get all the details ironed out so we could finally make our debut," said GWF interim North American Commissioner Max Andrews, the former USWA president. "We were almost ready to begin six months ago, but we wanted to sign the finest talent we could. I'm happy we waited it out, because now I'd match our talent base against anybody's."

GWF officials worked overtime to



procure stars from all over the wrestling world for its June 28 debut, and they managed to come up with an impressive roster. From the CNWA in Canada came Norman, who has changed his name back to Makhan Singh. From the USWA came John Tatum, Jeff Gaylord, and Pvt. Terry Daniels. From England came Axl Rotten—the reigning British Commonwealth champion—as well as veteran

Jeff Gaylord's (right) power, speed, and agility make him a strong contender for every GWF title.



The crowd-pleasing Patriot (above) won a tournament to become the first-ever GWF television champion.

Adrian Street.

The Georgia All-Star area, now a subsidiary of Global, contributed sensational young talent such as Billy Black, Chris Walker, Big Bully Busick, and The Handsome Stranger. These newcomers augmented veteran stars Adias, Stan Lane, Bill Irwin, Doug Somers, Jeff Gaylord, and Rip Rogers.

But the man who outshined them all in the first GWF TV tournament

was a masked newcomer named The Patriot. From the first moment this red, white, and blue-clad fan favorite entered the ring, GWF fans realized they were seeing a truly gifted athlete. At 6'5" and 280 perfectly proportioned pounds, Patriot emerged as the federation's strongest man. Add to that his amazing aerial skills—and his love of his native country—and the fans quickly dubbed Patriot their new hero.

more titles to be won."

For the next GWF title tournament—for the light heavyweight title—The Patriot would, of course, have to be content to be a spectator. Entered in this two-night tourney were veterans such as Iceman Parsons, Steve Simpson, Randy Rose, and Mike Davis. Again, however, a sensational youngster emerged victorious. His name is Lightning Kid.

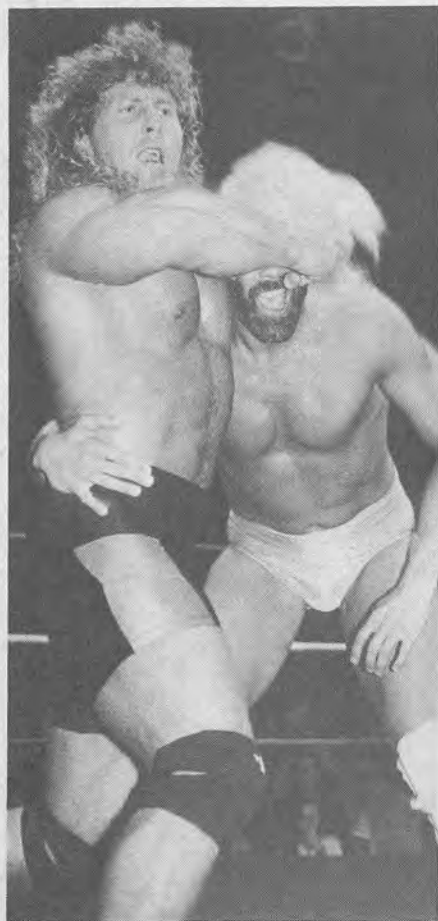


Buddy Landell certainly won't question The Patriot's talents. The veteran grappler was the heavy favorite going into the tournament final, but Patriot subdued the "Nature Boy" with a flying bodypress.

"Everything I do, I do for my country and for the fans," said an emotional Patriot after finishing off Landell. "I'm dedicating my title belt to all the citizens of the United States, the greatest land in the world. But I realize I've got my work cut out for me—there are

"I'm so happy I decided to enter Global," said an exhausted but exuberant Kid after defeating Jerry Lynn in the tourney final. "I only weigh 200 pounds, but the GWF realizes the lighter guys can be just as exciting as the 300-pounders. Now, I consider myself the standard for all junior heavyweights. If you think you can match skills with me, come to Global and let's find out."

However, even with the upbeat response to Global's first U.S. cards,

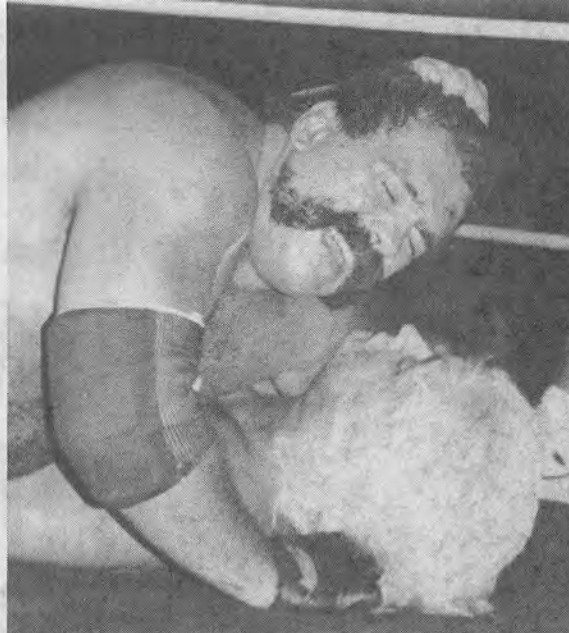


Many Texas fans say "Conan" Chris Walker (above) combines the skills of Kerry and Kevin Von Erich. The Patriot boasts a stunning flying clothesline (left). Lightning Kid (below) was the surprise winner of the GWF light heavyweight tournament.

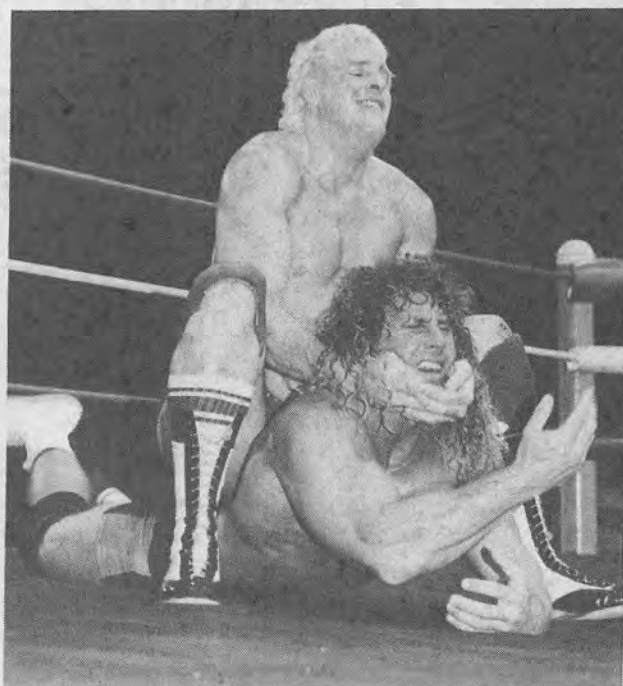


there is trouble brewing for many GWF stars. When the huge 380-pound Singh first appeared in the GWF, fans recognizing him as Norman from WCW responded by bringing teddy bears to ringside. But after Singh started dismantling his opponents in a brutal rulebreaking style, fans' spirits were crushed along with Singh's foes.

Equally as disturbing as the altered attitude of Singh are the actions of Rasta the Voodoo Mon, who has performed actual—and excruciatingly painful—voodoo rituals on his opponents; Lane, who has never been more wantonly brutal; and the devious Landell, who recently threatened to “destroy



Big Bully Busick (left) easily lives up to his nickname. From the Georgia All-Star area comes brutal rule-breaker Billy Black (bottom left). Global's veterans include former AWA tag team champion Doug Somers (below) and multi-titlist “Sweet” Stan Lane (bottom).

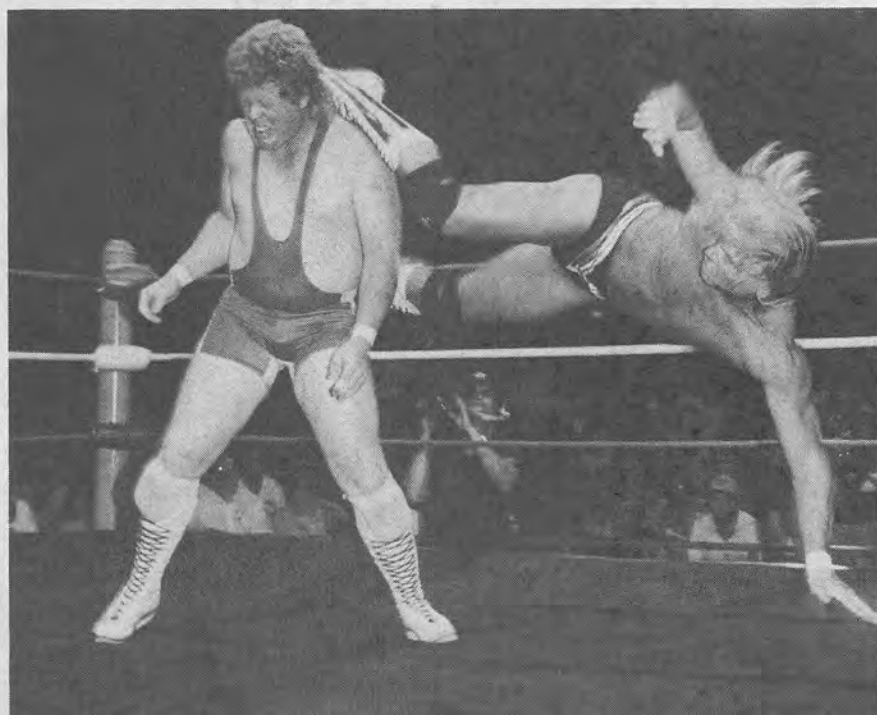


the GWF before it gets a chance to get off the ground.”

That's not likely to happen. Already, Global has a daily television program on ESPN, more than 100 stations for its syndicated show, and the interest of fans all over the country.

“And this is just the beginning,” exclaimed Patriot. “I know we have some problems with some rulebreakers, but myself, Chris Walker, and the Kid are more than ready for the challenge. We're also ready for an even bigger challenge, and that's to make the GWF a real force in the wrestling world.”

There is little reason to doubt him. □

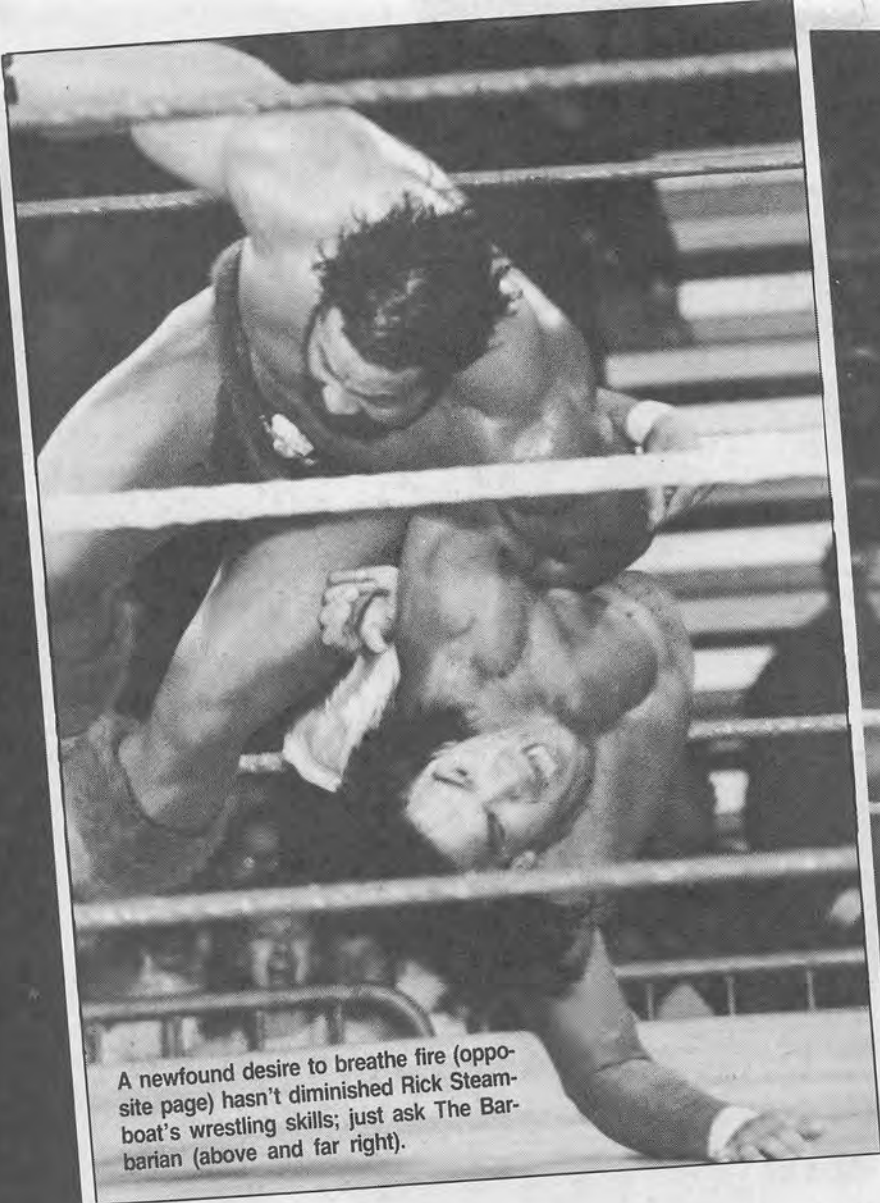


Rick Steamboat's Inner Passion:

**THE REAL
FIRE BURNS
WITHIN
THE
DRAGON**



Photos by David Fitzgerald



A newfound desire to breathe fire (opposite page) hasn't diminished Rick Steamboat's wrestling skills; just ask The Barbarian (above and far right).



By Kostya Kennedy

***With fire burning
above his lips
and within his
chest, Rick
Steamboat is a
changed man.
His eyes and
heart may be set
on the one big
jewel that has
forever eluded
him: the WWF
World belt***

MOST OF RICK Steamboat's attributes have never been questioned, by friend or foe.

Some of Steamboat's qualities, however, have met the sting of criticism.

No one can argue with Rick's accomplishments. "The Dragon" is the only wrestler to have held the WWF Intercontinental, WCW World, and WCW U.S. titles. Add to that the three WCW (then NWA) tag team championships Steamboat won with Jay Youngblood in the early-'80s, and there's no disputing that Rick is a winner.

Nor could anyone deny Steamboat his awesome, sinewy physique, a body that grows taut and rippling as he whips through his impressive martial arts repertoire.

And there is no honest man alive who could label Steamboat any kind of a rulebreaker. Throughout the ups and downs of his 15-year career, Rick has remained staunchly on the good side of wrestling law. He is a fan's man; he wrestles cleanly or not at all.

What, then, is the blemish on this storied career? Where does Steamboat's flaw lie? What is the weak link in "The Dragon's" long chain of goodness and success?

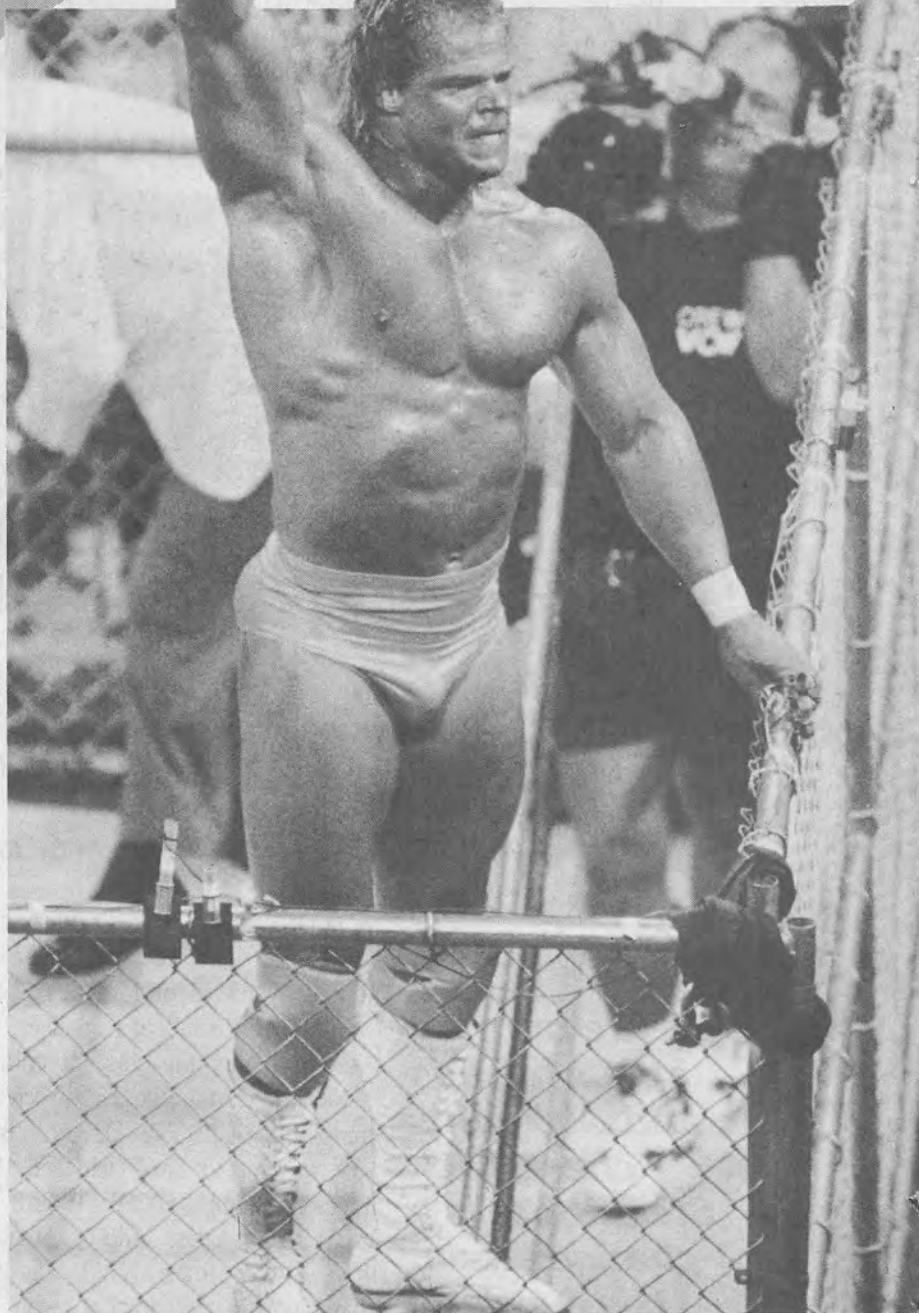
There are those who say that Rick Steamboat, who has retired several times during his career only to come back each time, lacks a sense of purpose, direction ... maybe even intensity.

A true champion, one with the
(Continued on page 62)

**The
"Total Package"
Unraveled:**

Finally, Lex Luger can claim the WCW World title he has strived so hard to win.

**LEX
LUGER
WINS
THE**



WCW TITLE - BUT



After getting the word from Harley Race, Luger nailed Windham with the lethal piledriver (above) that lead to the winning pinfall (below).



By Bob Smith

AS FANS FILED out of the Baltimore Arena on the unusually hot evening of July 14, all was quiet. The jubilation that would ordinarily accompany the crowning of a fan favorite as World heavyweight champion was non-existent.

As the fans headed down the exit ramps and into the parking lot, they didn't know quite what to think of the events they had just witnessed. They had waited so long for Lex Luger to win the WCW World title, and when he beat Barry Windham to accomplish just that, most were left confused. Some were left bitter. All were quiet.

Before the Great American Bash card had begun, fans' emotions were sky-high with anticipation. They had thrown their full support behind Luger and were hoping that the time had finally arrived for the four-time U.S. champion. After de-

fending his title strongly for most of the past two years, he appeared to be primed for the biggest victory of his life.

He seemed have put aside the years of frustration over being deprived of World title victories through technicalities, being deprived of title matches he felt he deserved as number-one challenger, and then finally being deprived of the opportunity to pin the shoulders of the man who was the source of all that frustration—Ric Flair.

On the outside, Luger appeared calm and focused. Inside, however, Luger was impatient—and maybe a little desperate.

Thinking back, Luger hadn't smiled in a long time. He had his game face on since he signed to wrestle against Ric Flair for the highly publicized pay-per-view extravaganza. But it turned out he was more than just serious. He

After nearly four years of trying, Lex Luger gained the victory he always coveted when he defeated Barry Windham to win the vacant WCW World title. But in gaining the gold, Luger sold out his loyal fans—and this time, they'll never dare trust him again

LOSES HIS FANS

Photos by
Bill Apter
& Al Bello



was a man that had undergone a complete change of attitude.

The events in the weeks leading up to the title bout had changed the man who has become known worldwide as the "Total Package." Just two weeks before the steel-cage showdown, Flair was stripped of the WCW title after a contract dispute could not be worked out between the seven-time champion and WCW brass. Windham, as number-two contender, was inserted into the main event in Flair's stead. The vacant title would go to the winner.

To Luger, this was yet another symbolic slap in the face. For years, he had struggled to master Flair without the distraction of outside interference. Now that he had finally gotten his chance in a steel cage, the opportunity was taken away from him.

The seething Luger claimed he was going to "make a statement" in his bout against Windham, but his loyal fans never dreamed of what was about to occur. After about 11 minutes of the hard-fought title contest—which turned out to be remarkably even—Windham blasted Luger with a perfectly executed bodyslam, followed by a dropkick from the top turnbuckle.

A pinfall victory for Windham seemed virtually assured, especially when Mr. Hughes—the former

Windham fought well throughout their encounter, as indicated by the intensity of this clothesline (above left). The "Total Package" tried for the win with his "torture rack" (above right) and a sleeperhold (below).



bodyguard for The York Foundation and a close friend of Windham's—showed up at ringside, accompanied by seven-time former champion Harley Race.

Windham walked to the corner

of the ring to speak with Hughes. At the same time, Luger staggered to ringside to where Race was standing, and the cagey veteran told Luger just one thing:

"Now's the time!"

With that, Luger kneed Windham into the turnbuckles, then blasted him with a piledriver—the same maneuver that Race used so often during his legendary career. Three seconds later, Luger had scored the pinfall, and the fans responded with gales of cheers—for about 10 seconds.

After referee Nick Patrick handed Luger the WCW belt, Hughes and Race entered the cage and raised Luger's arms in victory. At that point, the cheers quickly became confused rumblings. The fans who packed the Arena to see Luger win the title had gotten what they wanted, but they surely didn't want it on these terms.

"Not again, Lex," cried Mary Handley, who sat sobbing at ringside. "Not *again*. How many times can this man put us through the wringer? How many times can he tease us by being a decent guy, just to disappoint us all over again?"

In the locker room following the victory, a strangely unhappy Luger spoke in arrogantly calculating terms about his title victory.

"There's been a little something

missing that had been keeping me from achieving greatness," said Luger as he sat flanked by Race and Hughes. "I needed this man here [pointing to Race] to remind me that you wrestle for yourself, and *only* yourself. So, in my mind, I said to hell with everybody. All I needed was an attitude adjustment. No one's ever going to take advantage of me again."

After Luger's hatred-laced comments were uttered, even the assembled reporters were hesitant to ask further questions. One brave reporter, however, couldn't help but query Luger about his relationship with the fans.

"The *fans*?" laughed Luger. "Since when do I care about them?"

Since when do I care. In one night, in one match, Luger went from being one of the most popular competitors in the sport to one of its most reviled. Luger's decision to hire Race as his adviser left him virtually without any supporters—*especially* the wrestlers he once called his friends.

"I really think the guy's gone overboard," said Sting, who teamed with Luger to take on Rick and Scott Steiner at SuperBrawl '91 in May—and saved Luger from an attack by Nikita Koloff in the process. "His frustrated ambition has caused him to lose his marbles, I think. When he went into that match with Windham, he knew he'd win, because he stacked the odds in his favor by hiring Race and Hughes. That's the mark of a really desperate guy—and a coward. Who knows what kind of garbage he'll be capable of in the months ahead?"

Indeed, the future seems bleak for the WCW World championship. When Flair left WCW, many fans rejoiced. No longer would a vile, violent rulebreaker set the standard for the federation.

Now, with Luger as champion, fans are worried that the future will be every bit as bad as the past. □

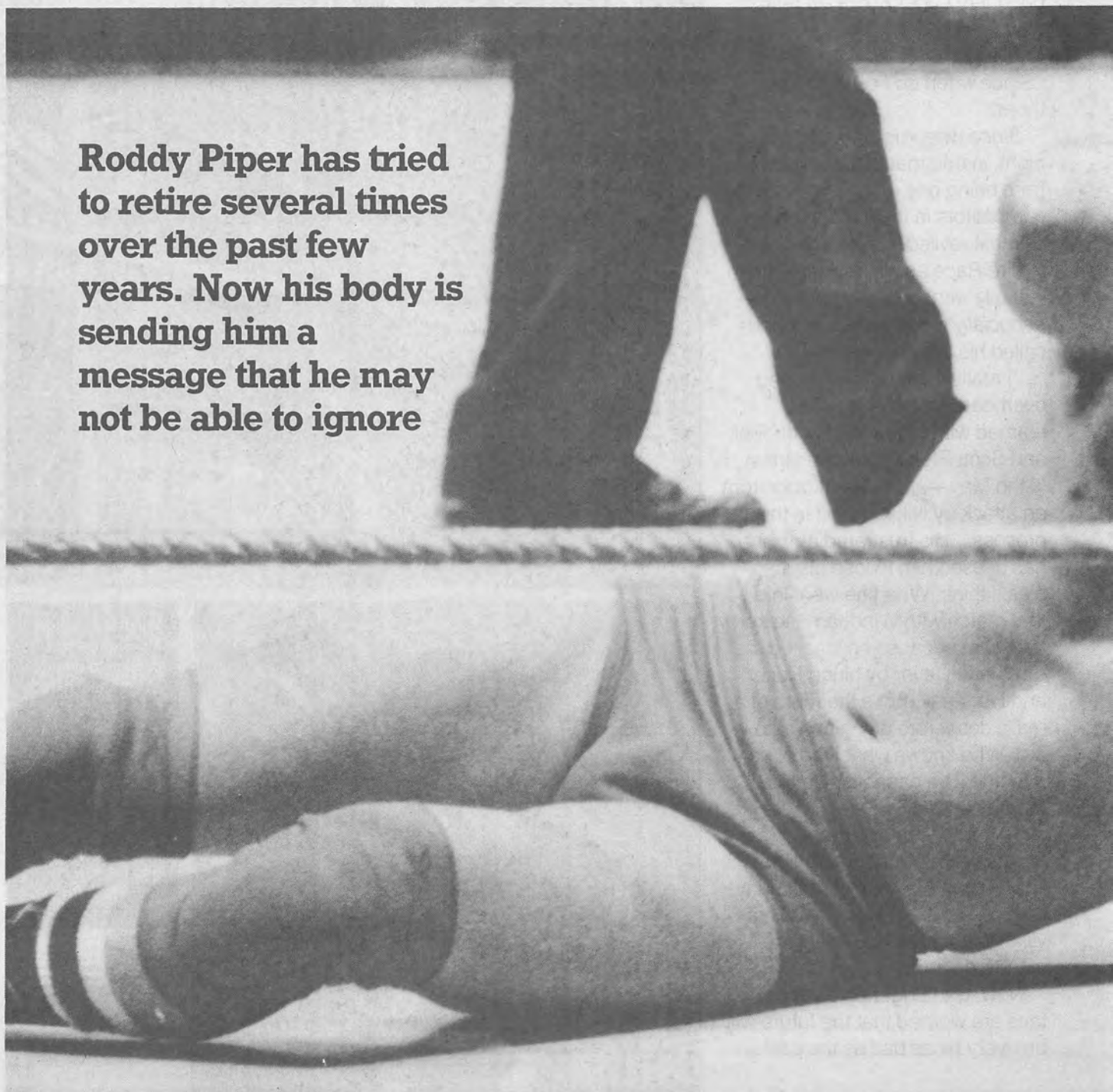


Windham thought Mr. Hughes was coming to ring-side to help him (top), but the big man's distraction allowed Luger to pounce on Barry (above). WCW announcer Eric Bischoff interviews a changed man and his new entourage (left).

Roddy Piper Faces Reality

"He's Through – His Body Just Can't Take It Anymore"

Roddy Piper has tried to retire several times over the past few years. Now his body is sending him a message that he may not be able to ignore



By Eddie Ellner

"Well, my retirement wasn't a Mike Tyson retirement—I didn't retire for 28 days and come back. I was serious when I retired. I'm not coming back, because I'm pursuing a movie career now."

—Roddy Piper, August 1988

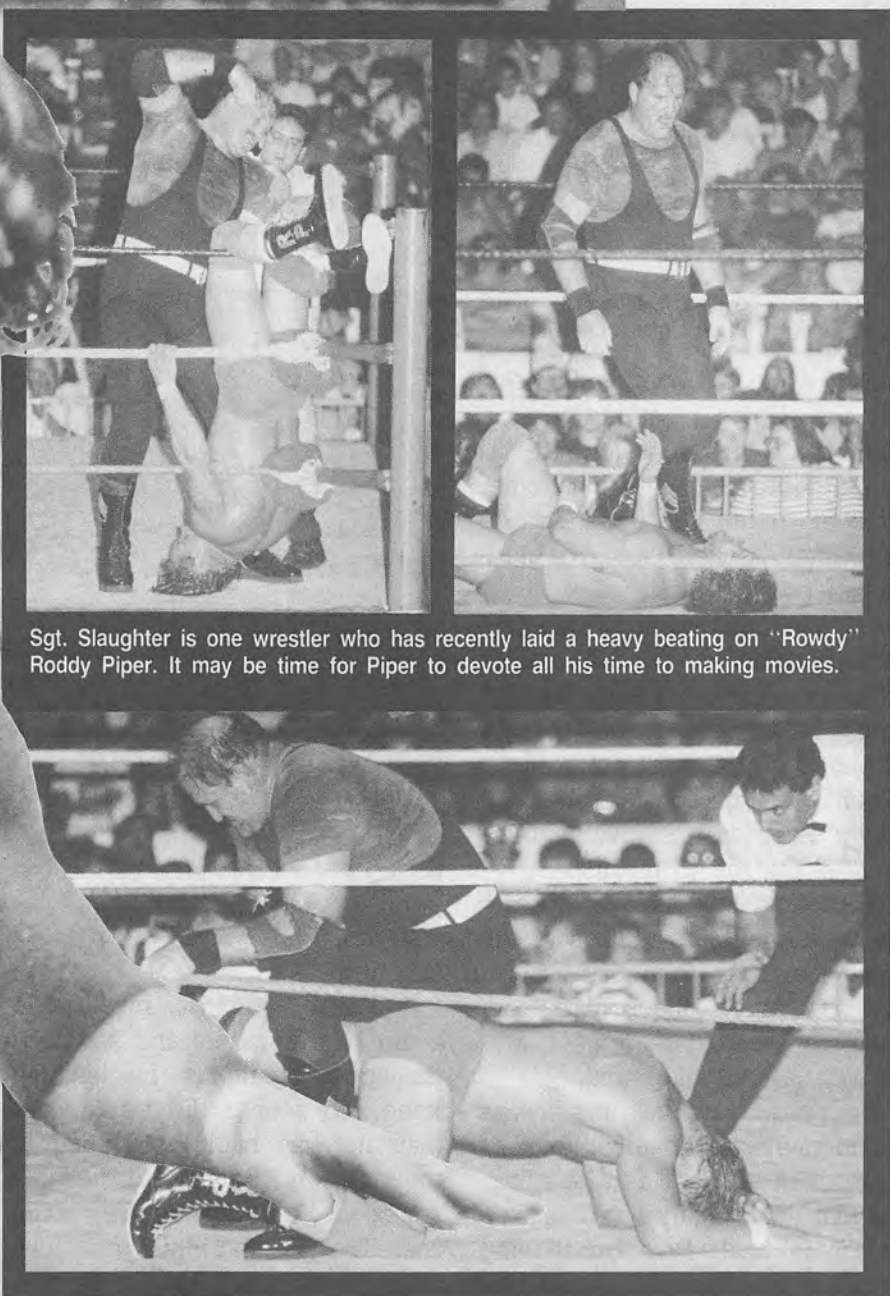
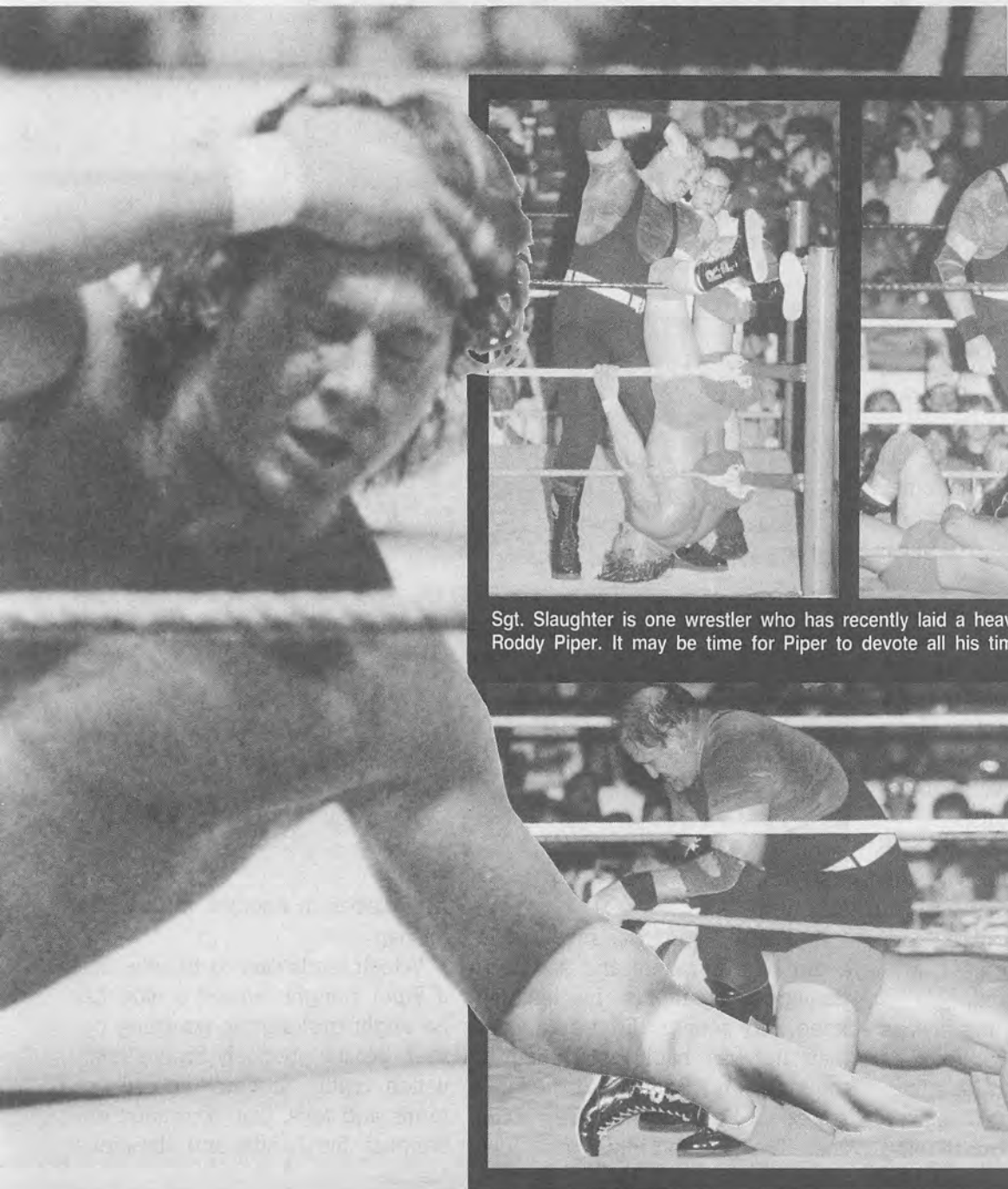
"I've always had a yearning to come back, but it's not going to happen. Not soon, not ever."

—Roddy Piper, October 1988

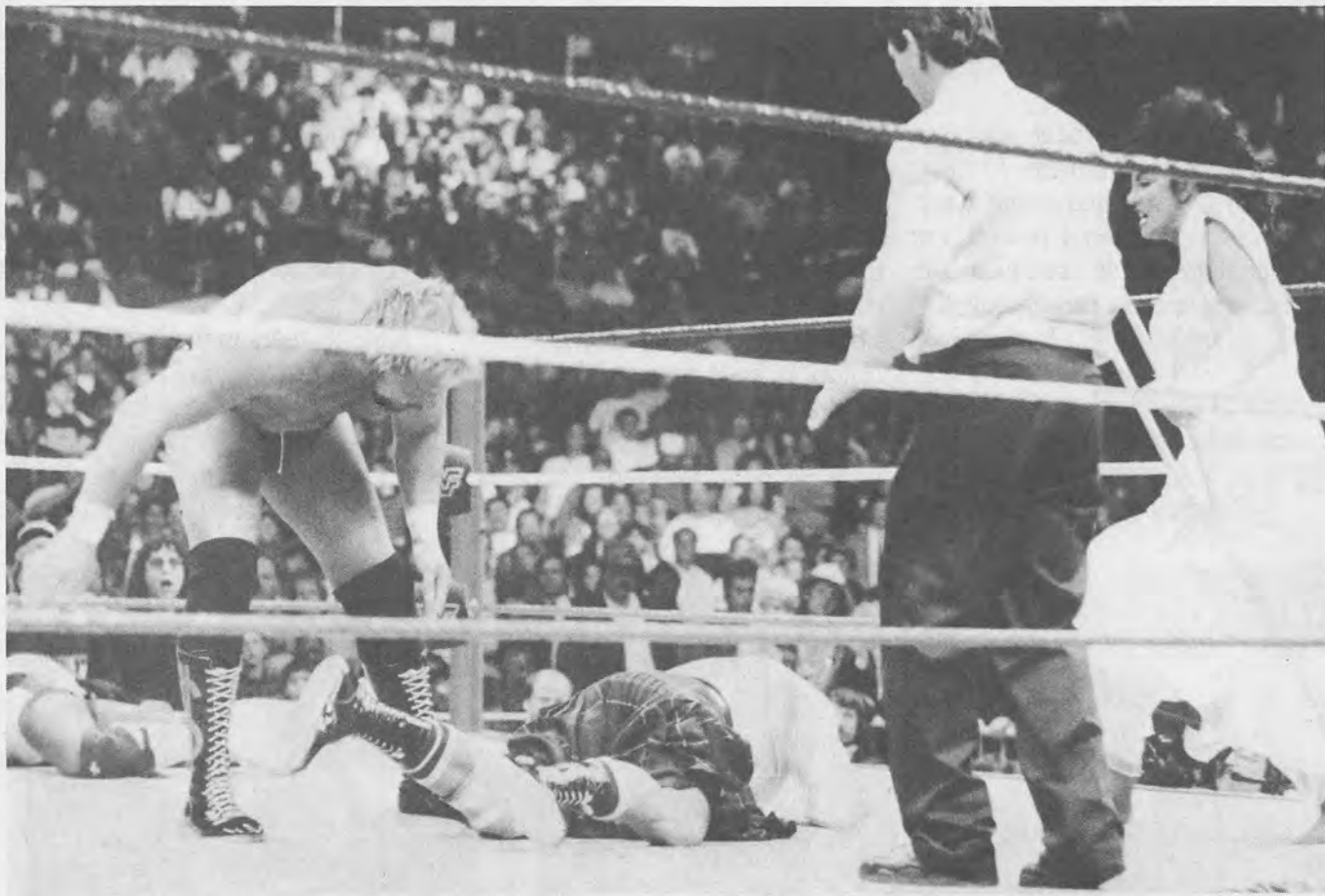
THE BAD NEWS is that Roddy Piper returned to the ring shortly after announcing his permanent retirement and has been there, in one form or another, ever since. The good news is that, in between bouts, Piper has established himself as a bankable star on the screen and in the announcing booth, careers that assure him of a smooth transition once he does finally retire.

The tragic news is that Piper suffers from a malady common to many professional athletes, but potentially fatal to professional wrestlers: Roddy Piper can't stop competing.

After 16 years in the ring, Piper's body is a catalogue of hundreds of major and minor injuries. He has been involved in many of the sport's most violent feuds, some against opponents outweighing



Sgt. Slaughter is one wrestler who has recently laid a heavy beating on "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. It may be time for Piper to devote all his time to making movies.



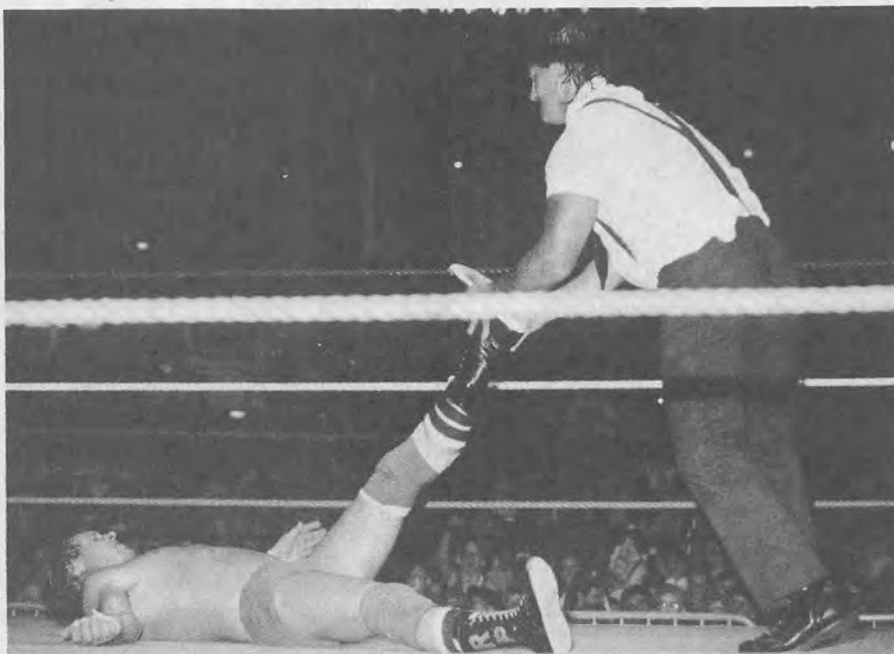
Ted DiBiase (above) and Irwin R. Schyster (right) work on Piper's injured left knee.

him by up to 100 pounds. Possessing the sport's most indomitable spirit and a notorious temper has gotten Piper into situations other wrestlers might flee from. Yet, he has never backed down, regardless of personal risk.

"Piper? He's one of the most tenacious battlers in the sport," notes his former tag team partner, Paul Orndorff. "He's not sane. He thrives on pain and punishment. When wrestlers consider the men they'd least like to face, he is always at the top of the list."

According to a source close to the wrestler, Piper might soon remove his name from that list. He is, according to the source, seriously considering retirement, a final and lasting retirement.

Piper's reckless style has always led to numerous injuries. And, as he's gotten a little older, he's finding that those injuries take a little longer to heal. He's questioning whether it's all still worth the



suffering.

In March, Piper was involved in a dirt bike accident and seriously damaged ligaments in his left knee. No sooner did he recover than he was back competing in the ring, and training Virgil for a series of bouts against Ted DiBiase. That is until this past July, when he fractured his left wrist in

two places in another motorcycle mishap.

Which leads one to believe that if Piper bought himself a nice car he might prolong his wrestling career. But it's precisely Piper's infatuation with "action"—in all its forms and toys, that constantly endangers his health and threatens his life.

"He's through, his body can't take it anymore," revealed the source close to Piper. "His body is held together by Crazy Glue. If he wants to act in another action movie, he better quit the ring for good before he risks permanent physical and neurological damage."

The irony is that while many athletes are unable to quit their sports because they are not adequately prepared for life outside the arena, Piper has several serious bidders clamoring for his services the minute he hangs up his wrestling boots.

"The guy must have a dozen movie scripts sent to him every week," says one wrestling source. "And it's no secret that every wrestling organization wants him full-time as their chief analyst. He's even been offered late-night talk show slots. It's not like he'd have to water plants every day if he retired from active wrestling."

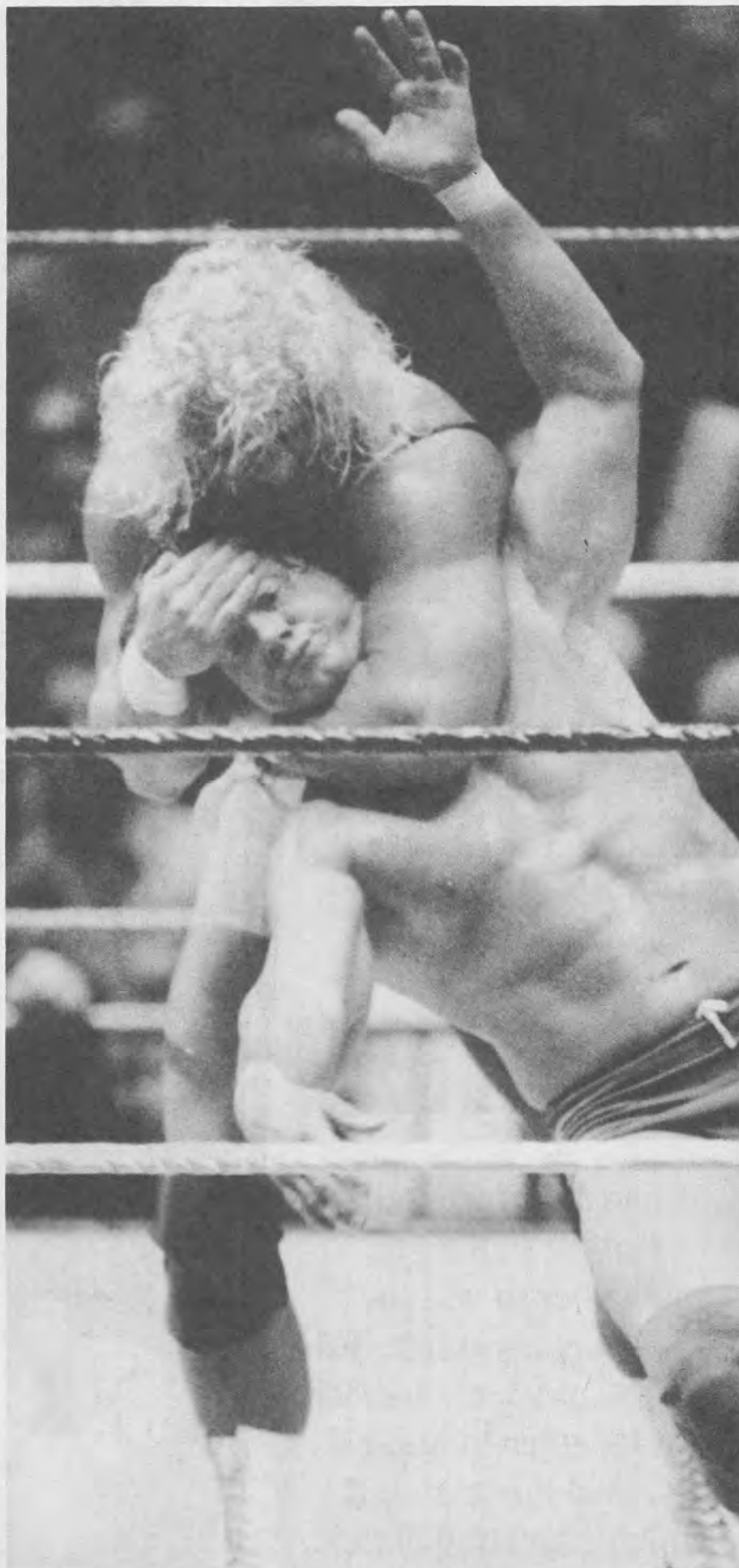
So why has it been so hard for Roddy to quit?

One theory contends that Piper is frustrated by the fact he has never won a world title. It suggests an obsession that fits neatly into Piper's manic personality.

"Absurd!" insists a close friend. "Look at the number of legendary wrestlers who never won a world title (Andre the Giant, Bruiser Brody). Look at the athletes in other sports who never played for a championship team (Ernie Banks, O.J. Simpson). Roddy's accomplishments speak for themselves. His achievements transcend title belts. Roddy's ego doesn't need that kind of stroking."

In the movie *They Live*, Piper's first starring role, he played a member of the working homeless, people who move from town to town looking for work. In his film odyssey, Piper eventually confronted and defeated a group of monsters from outer space.

Hopefully, in real life, Piper's battle against his own personal monsters will be as successful. □



The "Rowdy Scot" hasn't been able to beat Curt Hennig for the Intercontinental title, though he has come close. He may be wondering if the title quest is worth the pain.

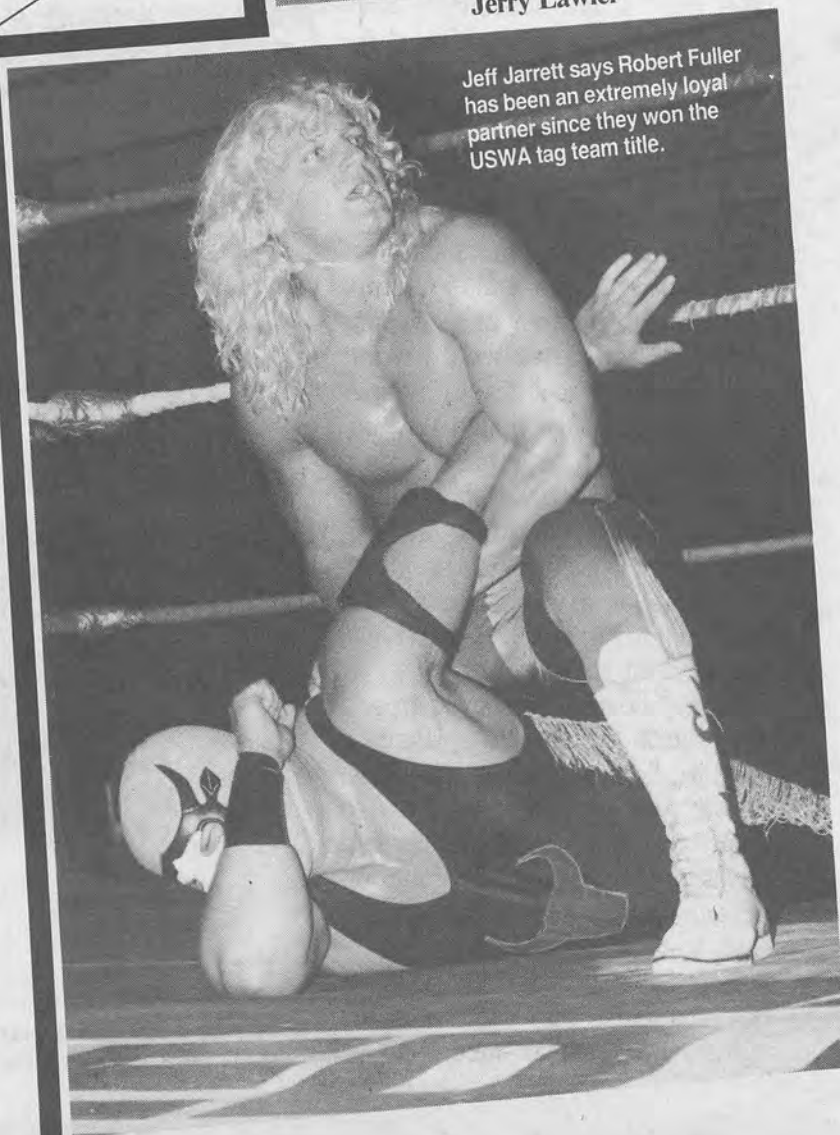
The Shocking Lawler-Embry Wager:

JARRETT & FULLER WILL BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS IN SIX MONTHS!

When Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller got together to win the USWA tag team title, Eric Embry and Jerry Lawler got together to make a bet. Will the team last? Embry has \$10,000 that says it won't!



Jerry Lawler



Jeff Jarrett says Robert Fuller has been an extremely loyal partner since they won the USWA tag team title.

ON ONE SIDE of the Pipkin Building in Memphis, Tennessee, Eric Embry stood and stared in disbelief. It was May 13, 1991, the night Robert Fuller and Jeff Jarrett won the USWA tag team title from The Texas Hangmen, an event that, just months ago, would have been highly unlikely.

It was the start of a bad night for Embry.

He totally expected Fuller, formerly one of the meanest men in the federation, to turn against Jarrett at some point in the match. But even if that didn't happen, Embry deeply believed that Fuller and Jarrett couldn't possibly be a cohesive enough team to win the belts.

He was wrong.

The moment Jarrett pinned Psycho, starting a celebration for Fuller and Jarrett that would last most of the night, Embry ran back to the dressing room. He dug through his equipment bag, pulled out a black address book, and turned to the "L" section. He was in pursuit of a man named Lawler, and Embry had his number.

He picked up a phone and dialed Lawler's number. It was busy. He dialed again. Still busy. He kept trying. It was only minutes before match time. Finally, the phone rang. Lawler answered. Embry started screaming.

"Lawler, this is Embry. Ten thousand bucks. I wanna bet you 10 grand that Jarrett and Fuller don't last another six months together."

By that time, Lawler knew exactly what Embry was talking about. While Embry was trying to reach Lawler, Lawler was on the phone with USWA officials, getting all of the details of Fuller and Jarrett's marvelous victory. Later, Lawler admitted that he half expected Embry's call.

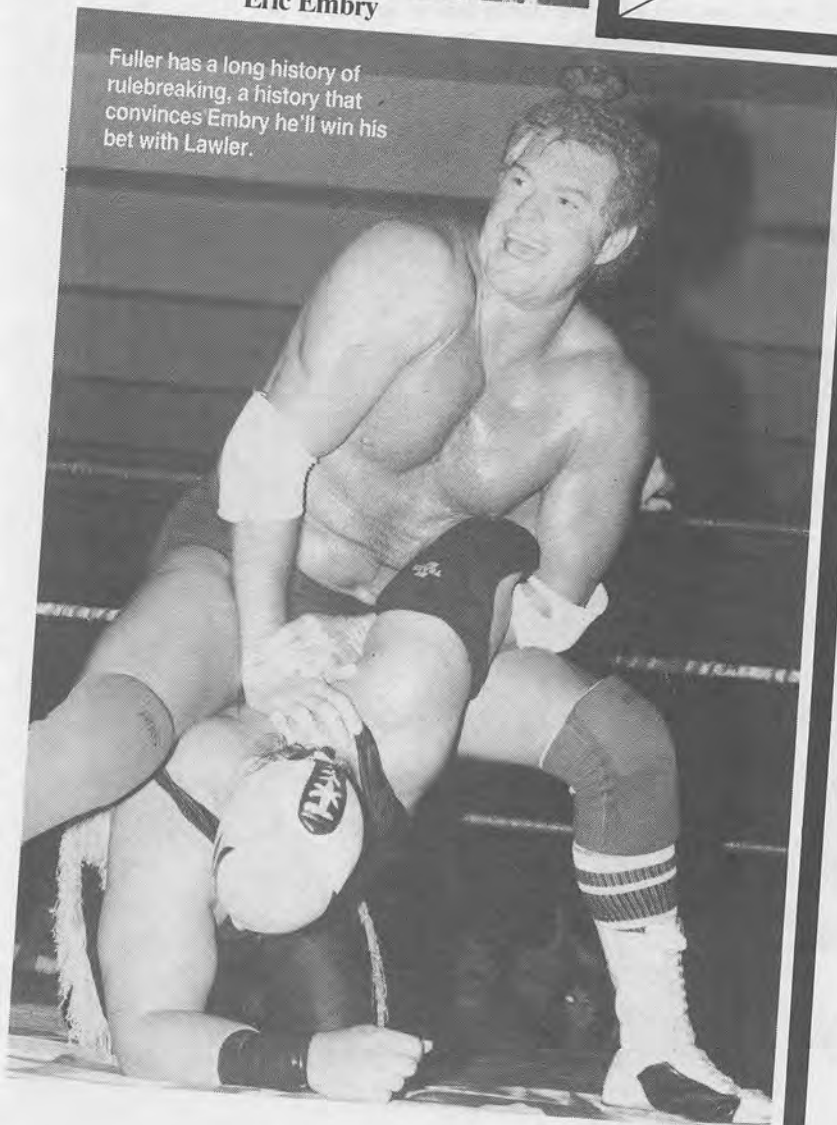
"I knew he'd be going out of his mind," Lawler said. "I'm glad I never got my number changed after Embry turned bad. It would have cost me this chance to take his money."

Lawler accepted the wager. "You're on," he told Embry. "November 13. If they're still together, I win. If



Eric Embry

Fuller has a long history of rulebreaking, a history that convinces Embry he'll win his bet with Lawler.





they're not, the money is yours."

Embry shouted "Deal!" slammed down the phone, and went out to the ring where, Fuller and Jarrett no doubt still on his mind, he lost his USWA Southern title to Bill Dundee.

Will the night of May 13 also cause him to lose \$10,000?

"No doubt about it," Jarrett said. "I know the way Bobby used to be, but believe me, he's totally changed. This has nothing to do with Lawler and Embry's bet. You can't put a price on our partnership. In fact, I'm actually not too crazy that Jerry and Embry are using us for their games. This is no game."

Fuller agreed. He insists that he is a reformed person, and he thanks Jarrett for showing him the way.

"Jeff's a good man, an honest man," Fuller said. "This wasn't something I did just because I thought Jeff had the best chance of getting me the tag belts. This is for real. Long after we don't have the belts, Jeff and I will still be buddies, and you can take that to the bank."

Which is exactly what Lawler plans on doing. Ever since Jarrett and Fuller won the title, their friendship has be-

Fuller (above left) insists his friendship with Jarrett (above right) is for real. He says they're serious in their battles against rulebreakers like Tom Prichard (below).





If Jarrett and Fuller are still a team on November 13, Lawler wins \$10,000 from Embry. "The King" is sure that money will never leave his pocket.

come stronger. They spend most of their free time together. In the ring, they are improving their teamwork with each passing match.

But Lawler knows that Embry, who has since regained the Southern title, will go to great lengths to break up Fuller and Jarrett. Jarrett reforms rule-breakers. Embry makes them rule-breakers again.

"I'm just going to let things take their natural course," Embry insisted, but he had a smile on his face as he said those words. Embry never lets things take their natural course.

"I know exactly the kinds of things Embry's gonna do," Lawler said. "He'll offer Fuller half of the money to turn bad, maybe he'll even offer him the whole thing just to make me look bad. But I have faith in Jeff to keep this friendship together, and I'm even developing some faith in Fuller, too. After all, what's money when you finally have a true friend? Fuller's never had that before."

So many things can happen. What if Fuller and Jarrett lose the belts and Fuller gets it into his mind that Jarrett was the reason? The slightest argument—and even the best friends occasionally argue—could develop into something much worse, especially with Embry egging them on.

Right now, Embry doesn't have Fuller's ear. That could change. He could interfere in one of their matches. He could make up a story about Jarrett that infuriates Fuller.

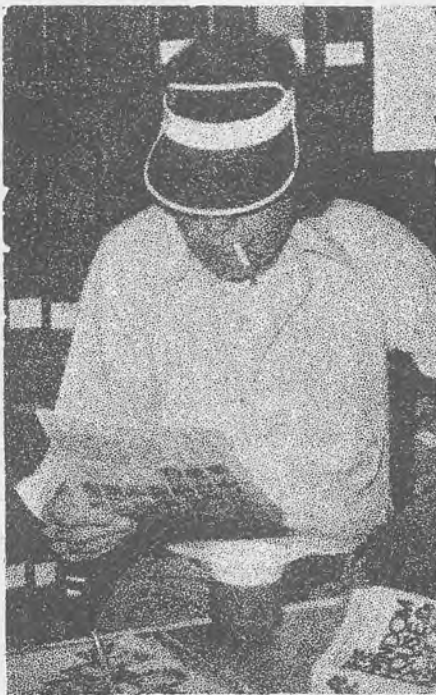
Jarrett is a solid citizen. For Fuller, the line between good and bad is almost imperceptibly thin.

The target date is November 13, but Lawler is looking far beyond it. He wants Fuller and Jarrett to remain friends forever.

"This isn't about money," Lawler said, "that was just a response to Embry's challenge, and it'll be fun to take his cash and donate it to charity. What this really is about is friendship. These guys go great together, and I want to see them last. And, you know, I want to laugh in Embry's face.

"I think Jeff and Fuller would like to do that, too." □

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

October 1982 RIC FLAIR vs. RODDY PIPER



The WWF World title isn't the only major championship that "Rowdy" Roddy Piper has pursued; in 1982, he met Ric Flair for the NWA World belt.

SO WHERE HAVE all the super-stars gone? I turn around and Ric Flair—the seven-time WCW World champion—is gone from the federation, seemingly for good.

I turn around again and Roddy Piper, one of the WWF's most exciting and flamboyant personalities, indicates

that he may be ready to retire from the ring, apparently because of some nagging injuries he suffered in a pair of motorcycle mishaps.

Frankly, if both of these men are gone from the scene, I hope it's only for a short while. I despised the brutal and cowardly tactics they both used

from time to time, but they were both *wrestlers* first and foremost.

Why do I say this when I've gone on record many times in the past *against* both of these arrogant men? Well, at least they both had the courage to use actual names. They weren't Undertakers, Mounties, or Diamond Studds—they were just Piper and Flair. When the bell rang, they relied on their own talents rather than their images. They were two damn fine technical wrestlers.

Also, these were men who were willing to put their abilities where their rather large mouths were. Sure, they'd brag and boast, but when they got in the ring they always gave it all they had. I can't think of two competitors who gave fans more outstanding matches—and more pure thrills—during the past two decades.

Personally, I believe that the loss of Flair is going to hurt the sport, especially if he's gone for a long time. As much as the WCW officials probably don't want to admit this, fans were chanting "We want Flair" throughout the Lex Luger-Barry Windham main

event of the Great American Bash in Baltimore.

I'm sure the fans' actions weren't meant to show any disrespect to Luger or Windham. It's just that Flair was such a vital part of the WCW championship scene for so long that most fans still can't believe he's really gone.

I guess I'd better get used to the idea that Flair and Piper are both out of the picture, at least for the time being. But I can't think back on the careers of either of these stars without remembering their incredible title match for Flair's NWA belt back in November 1982 at the Charlotte Coliseum.



Flair headlocks the "Rowdy Scot" (above), who had lost the U.S. title a few months before this bout.

A young, brash Flair was well into the first of his seven World title reigns. Piper had become the top contender to the belt, even though he had lost the U.S. championship a few months earlier. But both of these guys were in their wrestling primes, and they proved it when the opening bell rang.

Right from the beginning of the bout, both men were determined to outwrestle each other. They grabbed each other's shoulders, grappling and maneuvering for an advantage. Piper caught Flair in a sleeperhold, but Flair kept moving, never allowing Piper to get a firm hold on his neck.

Through every move and counter of



Piper and Flair had a good, old-fashioned fight going (above and below), until Greg Valentine and Wahoo McDaniel got involved. The match ended in a double-DQ.



this valiant struggle, the fans responded with cheers. I don't think those people really cared for *either* guy, but they *had* to be impressed with this confrontation. I know I was.

Unfortunately, after more than 10 minutes of classic wrestling, things got ugly. Greg Valentine, Flair's former tag team partner, came out to ringside and took a seat. Realizing he wasn't there just to enjoy the bout, Wahoo McDaniel, then a close confidant of Piper's, came out and leaned against the ring apron in Piper's corner.

Can you guess what happened next? Valentine held Flair's leg down to the mat for extra leverage during a pin attempt, and McDaniel became incensed. After Valentine placed Flair's

foot on the ropes during a later pin attempt by Piper, the hot-blooded Wahoo could take no more. He jumped into the ring, and Valentine quickly followed. A wild four-way brawl ensued, with both Piper and Flair ending up horribly bloodied. Needless to say, the bout ended up a double-disqualification.

"I don't need anyone's help to defeat Piper," Flair told me after the bout, "and I am ready for a rematch anywhere, anytime, under any circumstances."

The rumor mill says Flair could end up in the WWF—where Piper remains as a commentator—in the coming months. Perhaps that Flair-Piper rematch *still* isn't out of the question. □

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

everything a fan could ask of them, and then some. The only reason they haven't beaten The Nasty Boys for the World tag team belts is because Hawk has been out with a serious injury. If he were 100 percent, the title would be theirs, no problem.

So stop being so critical of these

great athletes who, by the way, have won World tag team titles in both WCW and the AWA. There's no doubt in my mind that they're the greatest tag team ever!

JO GREENWELL
St. Paul, MN

CHEERING UNDERTAKER

You people seem incredulous that many of us fans cheer The Undertaker ("Cold Heart, Warm Reception: Why Would The Fans Cheer The Undertaker?" September 1991). Well, let me tell you why *this* fan roots for him.

Yes, he is macabre, but he's new and exciting and different. He is also the first man in a good while to pose a serious challenge to The Ultimate Warrior. Even Ultimate's fans want to see him fight some *real* competition, and The Undertaker is it.

Now, though I cheer for Undertaker, I absolutely do not condone him locking Warrior in a coffin. That time, he went much, much too far. But when it comes down to getting the job done in the ring, Undertaker is the one.

Now if he could only get rid of Paul (Un)Bearer(able) ...

LUCY BUTTON
Hawthorne, CA

TOM TERRIFIC

Even if it was only an "X-Ray" (September 1991), I'm glad to see that Dr. Tom Prichard received some coverage in your magazine. He deserves it 10 times more than some of these other bums you feature regularly.

CHRIS WAKISKI
Lexington, KY

MORTON'S RIGHT

So Bob Smith is down on Richard Morton for his turn against Robert Gibson and his joining The York Foundation ("Blindsided," September 1991). Well, too bad, Smith. Morton had no choice but to do what he did. Gibson was just taking too much time



Perry Lawrence sheds no tears over the breakup of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. In fact, he says Rick Morton's turn against Robert Gibson was justified.

coming back from that knee injury of his. Richard (don't call him Rick) had to act fast.

The York Foundation has the resources to make Morton a champion once again. Even if Gibson comes back at 100 percent, he won't be the same as he was when The Rock 'n' Roll Express won its four World tag team titles.

PERRY LAWRENCE
Columbia, SC

INJUSTICE

I read your "Q & A: Sid Justice" (September 1991) with great interest. This man is on his way to doing great things. It's a shame that WCW let him go. In the WWF, he very quickly became a contender for championship gold. His fearlessness and fearsome countenance make him a standout.

Whether he's good or bad doesn't matter; Justice is ready to deal out his own unique brand of justice, and it's not going to be pretty.

HAROLD LEWIS
South Bend, IN

PRIME TIME RULES!

In response to Art Backstrom's letter in the August 1991 edition

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("Prime Time Pain"), I must say that I beg to differ.

The "new" *WWF Prime Time Wrestling* show is innovative, exciting, and comic. The old *Prime Time* was boring and bland. If it hadn't been for Bobby Heenan's wit and humor, I would not have watched the show at all.

And as for Gorilla Monsoon being articulate, knowledgeable, and patient, well, that's the first time I've heard anyone ever say something good about him. Get real: The man has the personality of a wall.

Thank God for Vince McMahon. It is because of him that the *WWF* is number one!

STEVEN SALAMI
Staten Island, NY

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

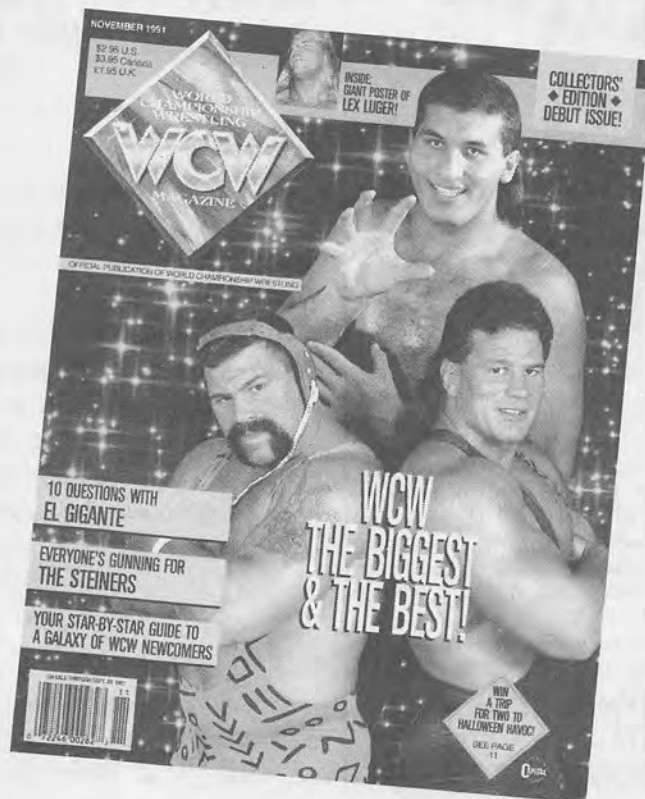
I am sick and tired of seeing *Wonder Years* star Jason Hervey on *WCW* broadcasts. I congratulate Paul E. Dangerously for cracking him in the head with his portable telephone during *Clash of the Champions XV*.

(Continued on page 50)



When Paul E. Dangerously blasted Jason Hervey over the head with a telephone, Mike Malesey stood up and cheered.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 49)

Maybe that knocked some sense into him and he will stay away from WCW and stick to making TV shows.

MIKE MALESEY
 Flatrock, MI

SUPERFREAKS

I've had it! I'm sick of all these new freaks in WCW. Have they stooped so low as to join the ranks of the WWF?

Who are these freaks? Johnny B. Badd, P.N. News, Oz, Badstreet, The Desperadoes. I've been an avid fan of WCW for eight years now and I don't want to see a good league like this one go down the tubes.

ERIC FOX
 Kenosha, WI

THE NAME GAME

At Starrcade '90, Sting and The Black Scorpion (Ric Flair) wrestled in the "first WCW World title match," thus ending the use of the NWA

name on all WCW television broadcasts. Several months later, *The Wrestler* and her sister publications began using WCW instead of NWA. However, the real death of the NWA came on July 1, 1991.

On that day, Flair ended the NWA when he basically gave up his seventh world title. I'm not sure what Ric will do next, but wrestling will not be the same. Even if Ric enters the WWF, he will be a different wrestler, with no past, no former world titles, and a new nickname. I hope he either retires or goes into the independent circles.

The birth of WCW with Lex Luger as its World champion could have been great, but it looks like Lex will return to being a rulebreaker with Harley Race at his side. If this is true, it brings to mind the old saying, "The more things change, the more they remain the same."

DEVEN MERCER
 Burleson, TX □



Reader Deven Mercer doesn't want to remember Ric Flair as The Black Scorpion, he wants to remember him as a great NWA (not WCW) World champion.

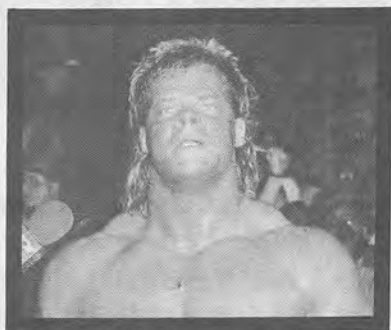
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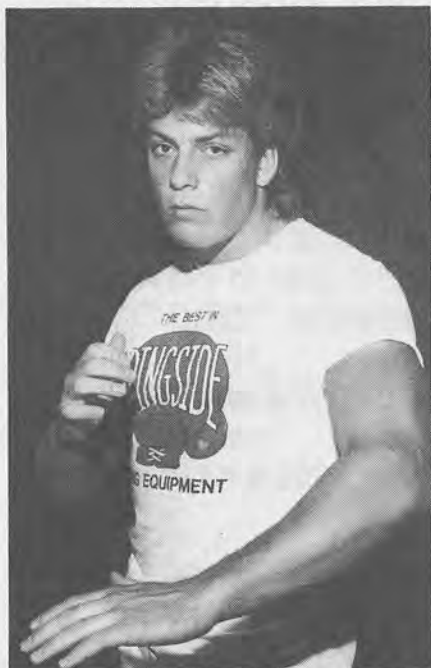
WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 7)

Kensuke Sasaki on March 21 in Tokyo.

"This just gives me more of a reason to get back in action as soon as possible," said Scott Steiner, who is convalescing at his Bay City, Michigan, residence. "I think the IWGP officials realize that I never would've been forced out of action if it hadn't been for that attack by **The Hardliners** [**Dick Slater** and **Dick Murdoch**]. To tell you the truth, I'm going crazy sitting on the sidelines. By the time I get back, I'll be in such a wild mental state that I'll probably put Murdoch and Slater out for good—and that's the least they deserve!"

Congratulations to **Jeff Jarrett** and **Robert Fuller**, who regained the USWA tag team title from the burly **Barroom Brawlers** on July 15 in Memphis—just one week after Robert and Jeff were stripped of the belts after losing a disqualification decision to the Brawlers at the Pipkin Building. It's great to see Fuller and Jarrett, former enemies, working so well together ... Speaking of the USWA, have you



Rob Zakowski, a remarkably impressive rookie currently wrestling in the USWA, has to be seen to be believed!



Mr. Moto, shown here wrestling Vic Christy in a 1963 match in Los Angeles, recently passed away at the age of 71.

seen sensational rookie **Rob Zakowski**? This former kick-boxer displays moves I've never seen before, including his amazing split-legged moonsault. Rob's matches against **Dan Davis** have been real classics!

Tommy Rich has joined **The York Foundation**. Naturally, he now wants to be known as **Thomas Rich** ... Young **Bobby Rogers** won the new Florida Wrestling Association junior heavyweight title by beating **Johnny Valdez** on July 20 in Miami ... **The Cuban Assassin** is back and busting heads in the UWF.

The incredible **Lightning Kid** soared past several veteran competitors to win the first Global light heavyweight title in a tournament on July 13 at the Global Dome ... Pacific Northwest officials held up the PNW belt after a wild bout between champion **Steve Doll** and

Ron Harris on July 5 in Eugene, Oregon, but Doll regained the belt by beating Harris in a rematch on July 14 ... WWF star **Jake Roberts** was forced out of action in July when an old neck injury flared up. Roberts asked former **Hart Foundation** stalwart **Jim Neidhart** to take his place in a pair of matches against **Earthquake**—and sure enough, "The Anvil" beat the 462-pound Canadian monster both times!

Mr. Moto, a top star of the '50s and '60s, died on July 6 in Los Angeles. Moto, one of the first men to hurl salt at his opponents, made headlines in 1964 when he became a fan favorite after more than a dozen years as a hated rule-breaker. Moto was the first cousin of **Duke Keomuka**, another old-time star who died just six days earlier in Las Vegas. Moto was 71, while Keomuka was 70. □



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August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Brisco.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/BONUS COLOR SECTION! Plus: Slaughter, Rich, Flair, Kerry.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen, Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Luger, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Luger, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

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April 1988/Stories include: Bonus 4-page color section! Starrcade, Survivor Series, World Class.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

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NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 8)

virtually every memorable WCW singles match. That's fine. That's great. But now it's time for some new blood. It's time for some great matches involving wrestlers not named Flair.

Flair had a great run. He's one of the greatest wrestlers that ever lived. Now it's time for him and WCW to go on. Sometimes, the

injury.

FIRST REACTION: Oh.

INFORMED REACTION: Hogan was extremely convincing. I even got the feeling Arsenio believed him.

Most importantly, wrestlers—and everybody else—must learn from all that is being written and said about the effects of anabolic



"Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase (above left) was willing to make Sid Justice (above right) a very rich man. To the delight of the fans, Sid said "no."

most unfortunate circumstances lead to the most fortunate outcomes.

FINAL OPINION: Methinks Luger was on the verge of finally beating Flair anyway. Quite obviously, Flair no longer had his heart in it.

NEWS ITEM: WWF head Vince McMahon Jr. admits to the national media that he used steroids once. Hulk Hogan appears on *The Arsenio Hall Show* and swears that he used steroids only by prescription to help heal an

steroids. Measured against the possible side effects of taking steroids, the short-term financial rewards the steroids might bring truly pale.

FINAL OPINION: Wrestling was a great sport before the introduction of steroids, and would be great if steroids were eliminated.

NEWS ITEM: Sid Justice turns down a big-bucks offer from "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase.

FIRST REACTION: DiBiase didn't offer him enough money.

INFORMED REACTION: Jus-

tice plans to make the most of his stay in the WWF. He plans to make a run at the top.

Justice knows what kind of money he can make by being successful. He had a choice: He could take the easy money and pass on the hard work, or face the tough climb and shoot for the gold ... and the gold belt.

Maybe Sid has finally matured. His stay in WCW, while beneficial in some ways, was basically a waste of time. Sid got in with the wrong crowd: The Four Horsemen.

Now it looks like Sid is on the right track. If I'm Hogan or Intercontinental champion Curt Hennig, I'm either looking over my shoulder or running for cover.

Sid's here!

FINAL OPINION: Do I have to call him Sid Justice?

NEWS ITEM: The editors of *Inside Wrestling* team with WCW's Dennis A. Brent to come out with the first issue of *WCW Magazine*.

FIRST REACTION: It's a dandy!

INFORMED REACTION: With high-quality color photos, high-quality glossy pages, high-quality writing (of course), *WCW Magazine* is ... a high-quality magazine!

FINAL OPINION: Do I get a raise?

NEWS ITEM: Jerry Lawler and Eric Embry continue their war in the USWA.

FIRST REACTION: Who do I root for?

INFORMED REACTION: Both men are crazy. Both are liable to turn bad at any time. Who do I root for?

FINAL OPINION: I root for Embry. Lots of Elvis Presley fans root for Lawler. That's just not my game.

Now wasn't that a learning experience? ☐

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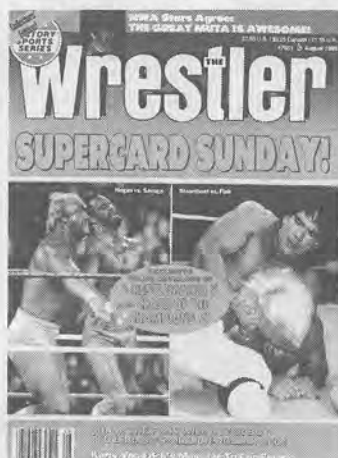
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◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #2

The March 1990 edition of *Inside Wrestling* is a collector's dream: A magnificent eight-page FULL-COLOR section highlights all the big events of the '80s! Plus, you get a dynamic and fast-paced year-by-year review of the decade. It's a magazine you'll cherish forever, truly a one-of-a-kind piece of wrestling history!



◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #3

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.



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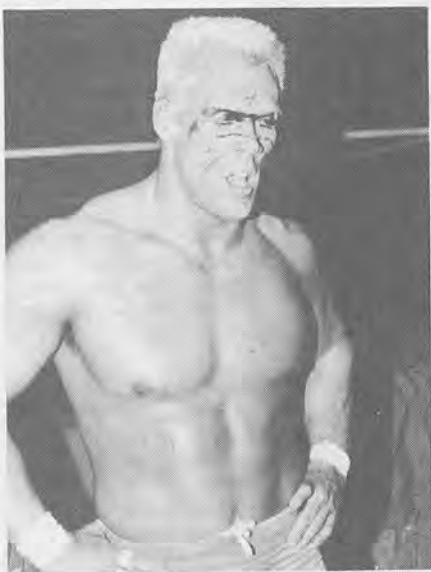
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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

Rambo pinned Bobby Blair ... PNW tag team champions The Bruise Brothers wrestled Steve Doll & Crush to a double-countout ... Larry Oliver drew with Doug Masters.

Nashville, TN (Correspondent—Sheryl Dunn): Still livid over his controversial loss to Nikita Koloff at The Great American Bash pay-per-view card, Sting was glad to get another shot at Koloff in this best-of-three-falls encounter at the Municipal Auditorium.



Sting avoided being stung by Nikita Koloff when they faced off in a best-of-three-falls contest in Nashville, Tennessee.

As Sting was coming to the ring, Nikita viciously attacked him. Throughout the first fall, Koloff repeatedly laced into the "Stinger" with kicks and punches and illegal maneuvers. Sting fought hard, but he couldn't avoid being pinned, especially when Nikita placed his foot on the ropes to make the cover.

The second fall belonged to the "Stinger." Whatever advantage Nikita gained, he didn't hold for very long. Hardly anyone was surprised when Sting pinned Koloff to even the match at a fall apiece.



Marty Jannetty forces a meeting of the minds between Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs. The Nasty Boys didn't expect such a tough match from The Rockers.

Fall three was marred by a lot of fighting outside the ring. When the brawling got too out of hand, the referee began his 10-count. Sting made it back in on time, but Nikita did not. Sting was the winner by countout, and, for at least one night, possessed the upper hand in this long, intense feud.

In other bouts: Terrence Taylor beat Black Bart ... Johnny B. Badd defeated P.N. News ... WCW TV champion Steve Austin defeated Mike Graham ... Richard Morton beat Robert Gibson ... Rick Steiner & Ron Simmons defeated The Hardliners ... WCW World champion Lex Luger pinned Bobby Eaton ... Yellow Dog defeated Barry Windham by countout.

Landover, MD (Correspondent—Ray Ney): The Nasty Boys have been so busy defending their WWF World tag team title against The Legion of Doom, they weren't too concerned about defending the belts against The Rockers at the Capital Centre. They should have been.

The match started off slowly, but The Rockers quickly began to dazzle the Nastys with stellar scientific maneuvers. To save his men from humiliation, Jimmy Hart felt the need to get involved.

As Jerry Sags and Shawn Michaels battled outside the ring, Hart handed his motorcycle helmet to Brian Knobs, who clocked Marty Jannetty with it and covered him for the pin. However, Michaels got back in the ring in time to save his partner from the three-count.

Soon, all four men ended up outside the ring, brawling up and down the aisles and brutalizing each other with chairs. Both teams were counted out.

In other bouts: Berzerker beat Koko B. Ware ... Irwin R. Shyster defeated Greg Valentine ... The Bushwhackers & Virgil beat The Orient Express & Mr. Fuji ... Kerry Von Erich wrestled to a double-countout against The Warlord ... The Ultimate Warrior beat The Undertaker ... Jim Neidhart, substituting for Jake Roberts, beat Earthquake. □

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)

being financed by a large Japanese concern, and he's filling my pockets with long green. Thanks to Tojo, I'm rich and I'm a champion. Sure, we had a little argument a couple of months ago in Dallas, but we both came to our senses. We compliment each other perfectly—he's a creep, and I'm a sneaky devil! What could be better?"

"Dallas can say that Studd is better-looking and all that, but it's just one man's opinion. Personally, I'll be happy to let the fans make up their own minds about that one. No, what really irks me about Studd is his arrogance and his almost uncaring attitude toward the sport and the fans. The way he makes women come to the ring and rip off his warmup pants is an



Q: "I've just got to get an answer about something from my favorite wrestler, Tom Zenk: For a while, Tom, you actually seemed to be bothered that 'Diamond' Dallas Page was touting his new protege, The Diamond Studd, as wrestling's ultimate stud. Do you really care about who's more handsome?"—Pam Smith, Delmar, NY

A: "That's not what bugs me about Page and Studd," insisted Zenk.

Tom Zenk insists that if "Diamond" Dallas Page stopped interfering, he'd easily beat Diamond Studd.

insult to females everywhere. But it's Page that really makes me angry. He says he's the manager of champions, but all he does is orchestrate two-on-one attacks. I just know that if I can get Studd alone in the ring, I can beat him—with ease."

Q: "I can't believe, you, Norman . . . or I guess I should say Makhan Singh. I loved you for almost two years, but now you've become one of the most brutal men I've ever seen. Why did you turn against your fans—and turn against me?"—Mary Ann Sanders, Ft. Worth, TX



Wave a teddy bear in Makhan Singh's face, and he'll probably rip it to shreds.

A: "I don't care about you, Sanders," said the formerly amiable Singh. "I'm just getting back to my roots, that's all. A few years ago, I was the Stampede North American champion, the most feared wrestler in all of Canada. My name during that time was Makhan Singh, but after that I changed my name to Norman and headed for WCW. Well, the fans loved me there, but what championships did I win? The World title? Even the TV belt? No, I didn't win squat. That's why, when I decided to enter the new Global Wrestling Federation, I decided to get back to basics. No more teddy bears. No more waving to the crowd. From now on, I'm using my 368 pounds to crush people—and The Patriot better watch his red, white, and blue butt. That's because I'm gonna take his TV title and unmask him in the process." ☐

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Randy Savage vs. Austin Idol
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VOL. 3 ☐

Nick Bockwinkel vs. Terry Allen
Ivan Putski vs. Eddie Mansfield
Tito Santana vs. Kelly Kiniski
The Sheik vs. Tom Jones
Bobo Brazil vs. Michael Angelo
Chief Wahoo McDaniel vs. Tully Blanchard
Eddie Gilbert vs. Jerry Lawler

VOL. 4 ☐

The Sheik vs. Tiger Jeet Singh (Mud Match)
Austin Idol vs. Masai Ito
Terry "The Hulk" Boulder (Hulk Hogan) vs. The Outlaw
Tully Blanchard & Gino Hernandez vs. Scott Casey & Terry Allen
Terry Taylor vs. Sabu
Chief Wahoo McDaniel & Tommy Rogers & Marty Jannetty vs. Ted Oates & The Grapplers

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



G.Q. Stratus assaults Ray Odyssey (above). Stratus' partner, Mike Samson, chinlocks Dusty Wolfe (right). Casey says his men's second IWCCW tag title reign will be their greatest.

would never have happened.

"I'm more than happy to take credit for my boys' ascent into superstardom," bragged the arrogant Casey, a former pro golfer who entered the mat sport in 1986. "But don't take anything away from my Babies. Mike and G.Q. are two never-say-die brawlers who don't give up until their opponents are bloody and beaten. That's why they're the finest team I've ever managed!"

Casey, who claims he became a millionaire during his golf career, was a successful manager in Virginia and Georgia for five years before entering IWCCW.

In 1986, one of his former partners on the links, wrestler "Punisher" Tommy Rose, suggested that Casey become a manager. The suggestion appealed to him greatly.

"I made scads of cash as a golfer, so why not put my money to good use?" recalled Casey while scraping a molar with a gold toothpick. "Managing turned out to be easy. I advised Ivan Koloff in Virginia for two years, led The Cream Team to the Virginia Wrestling Association tag title, and managed Buddy Landell and Abdullah the Butcher to greatness. But my finest accomplishment—turning Samson and Stratus into my Babies—was still to come."

Casey first spotted the team of Samson and Stratus in Virginia in 1989. Actually, Samson and Stratus *lost* their VWA title to Casey's duo of The Cream Team. But after the match, both the losing team and the manager were greatly impressed with each other.

"I couldn't believe how hard Casey worked for his men," said Samson, a solid 6'1", 235-pounder, whose brawling skills perfectly augment the canny rulebreaking of the 6'3", 260-pound Stratus. "I knew if we wanted to make it big on a national basis, we needed a good manager. A few months later, I swallowed my pride, called Kevin, and asked if he'd work with us. I was kind of shocked when he agreed, but it's been nothing but big wins ever since!"

Actually, it's been Casey's meddling that has propelled the Babies to their greatest victories. In April, Samson and Stratus defeated The Undertakers for the IWCCW tag belts, but only because both Babies used Casey's driver to blast Punisher and set up the winning pinfall.

The Babies soon lost their title to G.Q. and T.D. Madison, but they regained the belts on June 1 in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. In a prematch as-

sault, Stratus attacked G.Q. Madison in the locker room—with Casey's golf club, naturally. G.Q. Madison suffered several serious cuts and bruises, so young T.D. bravely took on both Babies by himself. The match only lasted a few minutes, as T.D. was overwhelmed.

"The *real* G.Q. beat the *fake* G.Q.," said Stratus after they regained the title. "The attack



was all Kevin's idea, and the officials couldn't suspend us since nobody saw me beat up Madison. With that kind of brilliance behind us, we'll never lose these belts again!"

Despite their bold claims, the Babies' vile tactics have not only the Madisons and Putskis gunning for them, but they've raised the attention of IWCCW officials as well. Casey, however, doesn't seem to mind the attention.

"Doesn't matter to us," said Casey of his men's hectic schedule of title defenses. "With my evil genius and the Babies' natural rulebreaking gifts, all those other teams don't have a chance. Like I've always said, it don't mean a thing if you ain't got that *swing*! Get it?"

Got it.



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☐ Nov. 1989: Exclusive Photos Of A Lifetime! Hulk Hogan—From The Cradle To The Throne. Plus: Rhodes (1982), Flair (1980), Snuka (1981), Sullivan (1973), Rich-Sawyer (1984), Lord Al Hays (1973). Classic Ratings (1979). Future Classics: Savage, Steamboat.



☐ Jan. 1990: Roddy Piper's Title Match With Ric Flair Ends In Chaos! (1983). Plus: Sammartino (1977), Von Raschke (1972), Zbyszko (1981), Rhodes (1977), Andre-Ladd (1977), Hogan-Blackwell (1982), Kevin Von Erich (1984). Classic Ratings (1975). Future Classics: Sting, Warrior-Rude.



☐ March 1990: The Most Vicious Wrestlers Of Our Time: Terry Funk (1976), Kowalski (1972), Sheik (1974), Brody (1983), Hogan (1980), Blassie (1982), Steele (1973), Abdullah (1982), Hansen (1978). Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: AWA Team Series, Valentine-Garvin.



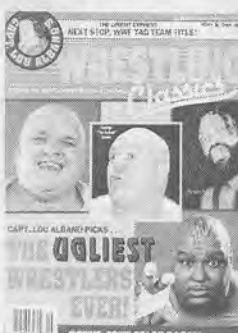
☐ April 1990: A Decade Of Feuds: Bruno-Zbyszko (1980), Andre-Khan (1981), Backlund-Snuka (1982), Piper-Valentine (1984), Slaughter-Sheik (1984), Flair-Nikita (1985), Hogan-Omdorff (1986). Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: Duggan, Luger.



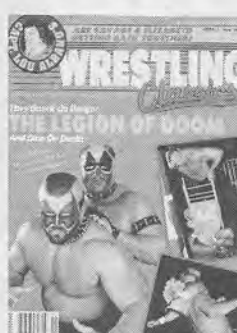
☐ May 1990: Shockers! The World Title Upsets That Changed History: Rich-Race (1981), Koloff-Sammartino (1971), Graham-Sammartino (1977), Andre-Hogan (1988), Theoz-Rogers (1973), Stasiak-Morales (1974), Funk-Erisco (1976). Classic Ratings (1972). Future Classics: Andre & Haku, Zenk.



☐ July 1990: WrestleMania! The Grandeur & The Glory: An In-Depth Look At WrestleManias I-V. Classic WrestleMania VI Foldout: Hogan-Ultimate Warrior. Classic Ratings (1985). Future Classics: Skyscrapers-Road Warriors, Lawler-JYD.



☐ Sept. 1990: Capt. Lou Albano Picks . . . The Ugliest Wrestlers Ever! Firpo (1972), Bundy (1984), Mayne (1973), Curry (1965), Steele (1978), Abdullah (1976), Rhodes (1982), Kabuki (1982), Missing Link (1985). Classic Ratings: (1982). Future Classics: Omdorff, Orient Express.



☐ Nov. 1990: The Legion Of Doom—They Dine On Danger And Snack On Death: Six stories tracing The Road Warriors' brilliant career. Bonus: The Greatest Tag Teams in history. Classic Ratings: (1983). Future Classics: Savage-Elizabeth, Kevin Von Erich.

In case of a sellout, please indicate substitute choice: _____

STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 33)

heart and fiber of an all-time great, doesn't only reach the top, he stays there, say the critics. And they point to Steamboat's short title reigns as evidence of a glaring soft spot.

Rick won the I-C title from Randy Savage in 1987's Match of the Year, but lost it two months later to the chubby, unheralded Honky Tonk Man.

"The Dragon" captured Ric Flair's WCW title in 1989, but 11 weeks later Flair had the belt around his waist once again.

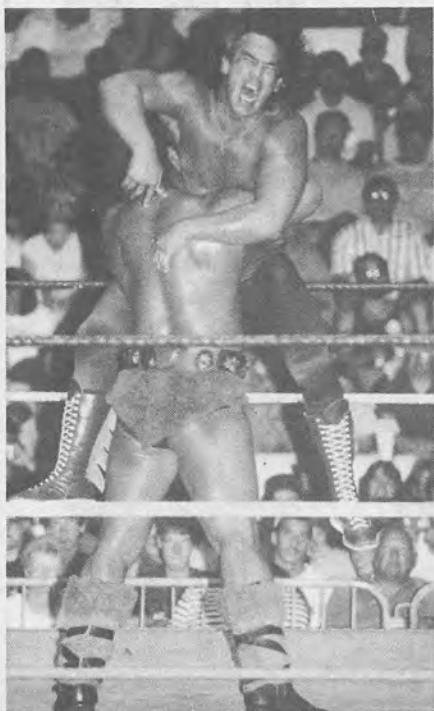
And during his battles with Flair—a series of matches that ranks alongside any in history—Steamboat's wholesome goodness became a weakness. While Steamboat refused to deviate from his style (quick and professional but without intimidating brutality) and seemed to regard WCW rules as sacred, Flair was his usual vicious, rule-shattering self.

A family man, a good guy, and all the rest, Rick Steamboat ultimately couldn't hack it against the selfishness and cruelty of the "Nature Boy."

Today, there is a new Rick Steamboat. A stint away from wrestling and a



Barbarian is powerful (above), but "The Dragon" has devised ways to neutralize him (below). Steamboat has a history of outwrestling bigger men.



As Steamboat moves up the ladder of contention, his intensity increases.

recent re-emergence into the WWF has transformed this man into a creature with all the fierceness that his moniker implies.

Now Steamboat walks into the ring and breathes fire. He walks in alone, with no wife or child at his side. And

when the match begins, Steamboat is himself a ball of fire, his arms and legs knifing ferociously toward his opponent from the opening bell to the final blow.

"It's incredible what's happened to Rick," said Vic Steamboat, Rick's younger brother. "He's more intense

than I've ever seen him. For some reason—and I'm not sure what it is—Ricky is completely motivated. He's got a touch of a mean streak that he never had before and it's really helping him. Ricky still fights within the rules, but now he goes right after his opponent and really tries to hurt him. In the past, it sometimes seemed that Ricky was afraid of hurting people, he would just do what it took to win and he rarely went in for the kill."

Thus far, in his recent WWF appearances, Rick has been ripping through his matches at will, doing away with men like Haku and the Barbarian while waiting and preparing to put his scientific ability to the test against the WWF's finest. Watching Steamboat as he puts the finishing touches on a decisive victory, one gets the feeling that the prospect of adding a fourth major singles title to his resume is the impetus behind his transformation.

"The WWF title? Ricky would love that," Vic confided. "That would really round out his career and put him in a class by himself. That's got to be a big reason for his new attitude. He knows what he wants, and he's taking aim."

At this stage of his career, Rick realizes that the time is now to make his move on history. There is young blood in the WWF, and everyone is after the same prize. Steamboat can't afford to let age, and blossoming stars, catch up to him.

If Steamboat does travel the long road to the WWF belt, he will have journeyed through a sea of dangerous obstacles. Virtually all of the federation's top contenders outweigh Rick; most are bigger and most embody more sheer power. But for a man who legend says can split a single pea in mid-air with a flying dropkick, anything is possible. Especially with the focus and desire he has begun to display.

It is more than a crowd-pleasing stunt when Rick Steamboat breathes flame into the air. It is a symbolic gesture, a warning to the rest of the WWF that the blazing fire of desire and determination burns hotter than ever in The Dragon's breast. ☐

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Wrestler^{THE}

TOP 10

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
292, Venice Beach, CA
(1) WWF World champion
- 2 LEX LUGER**
290, Chicago, IL
(3) WCW World champion
- 3 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
(4) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 4 STEVE AUSTIN**
241, Dallas, TX
(-) WCW TV champion
- 5 BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
(-) No. 2 contender: WCW title
- 6 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
(7) USWA champion
- 7 RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA
(-) No. 3 contender: WCW title
- 8 TOM PRICHARD**
220, Houston, TX
(-) USWA Texas champion
- 9 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(5) No. 4 contender: WCW title
- 10 BRET HART**
235, Calgary, Alberta
(-) No. 1 contender: I-C title



The Young Pistols

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE NASTY BOYS**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(1) WWF World tag team champions
- 2 THE FREEBIRDS**
Combined weight: 490 pounds
(2) WCW U.S. tag team champions
- 3 ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT**
Combined weight: 457 pounds
(3) USWA tag team champions
- 4 THE LEGION OF DOOM**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 5 THE ROCKERS**
Combined weight: 450 pounds
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 6 DICK MURDOCH & DICK SLATER**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
(8) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag team title
- 7 ARN ANDERSON & LARRY ZBYSZKO**
Combined weight: 497 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 8 THE BARROOM BRAWLERS**
Combined weight: 592 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag team title
- 9 THE YOUNG PISTOLS**
Combined weight: 451 pounds
(7) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 10 THE BRUISE BROTHERS**
Combined weight: 541 pounds
(6) Pacific Northwest tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:
LEX LUGER

(1) 290, Chicago, IL

- 1—STEVE AUSTIN**
(5) 241, Dallas, TX
- 2—BARRY WINDHAM**
(6) 263, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—RON SIMMONS**
(-) 260, Perry, GA
- 4—STING**
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—NIKITA KOLOFF**
(3) 275, Lithuania
- 6—TOM ZENK**
(-) 237, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—DIAMOND STUDD**
(7) 290, Tampa, FL
- 8—JOHNNY B. BADD**
(-) 259, Macon, GA
- 9—YELLOW DOG**
(-) 226, parts unknown
- 10—ROBERT GIBSON**
(-) 225, Pensacola, FL

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

(C) 292, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—CURT HENNIG**
(1) 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—SGT. SLAUGHTER**
(2) 310, Parris Island, SC
- 3—BRET HART**
(5) 235, Calgary, Alberta
- 4—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(3) 280, Queens, NY
- 5—THE UNDERTAKER**
(4) 320, Dallas, TX
- 6—THE WARLORD**
(9) 360, Chicago, IL
- 7—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—JIM NEIDHART**
(-) 275, Los Angeles, CA
- 9—THE MOUNTIE**
(6) 232, Montreal, Quebec
- 10—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**
(-) 245, Syracuse, NY

GLOBAL

Global TV Champion:
THE PATRIOT

(-) 280, Washington, DC

- 1—CHRIS WALKER**
(-) 240, Atlanta, GA
- 2—STEVE SIMPSON**
(-) 230, Johannesburg, S.A.
- 3—BIG BULLY BUSICK**
(-) 255, Pittsburgh, PA
- 4—GARY YOUNG**
(-) 240, Houston, TX
- 5—LIGHTNING KID**
(-) 200, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—TERRY DANIELS**
(-) 223, Charlotte, NC
- 7—HANDSOME STRANGER**
(-) 239, parts unknown
- 8—SKIP YOUNG**
(-) 230, Denton, TX
- 9—MAKHAN SINGH**
(-) 380, Saginaw, MI
- 10—JOHN TATUM**
(-) 236, Hollywood, CA

USWA

USWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

(C) 234, Memphis, TN

- 1—TOM PRICHARD**
(2) 220, Houston, TX
- 2—ERIC EMBRY**
(1) 240, Lexington, KY
- 3—TONY ANTHONY**
(4) 235, Bucksnort, TN
- 4—LEATHERFACE**
(9) 322, parts unknown
- 5—BILL DUNDEE**
(5) 214, Melbourne, Aus.
- 6—DAN DAVIS**
(6) 218, Nashville, TN
- 7—ROB ZAKOWSKI**
(-) 215, Battle Creek, MI
- 8—DOUG GILBERT**
(-) 260, Lexington, KY
- 9—SABU**
(-) 221, parts unknown
- 10—JUDGE DREAD**
(-) 325, parts unknown

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
292, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 3 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 4 RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA
Last issue: unrated
- 5 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6 EL GIGANTE**
435, Argentina
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 7 BRET HART**
235, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: unrated
- 8 SID JUSTICE**
318, West Memphis, AR
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular
- 9 BOBBY EATON**
233, Huntsville, AL
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular
- 10 ROBERT FULLER**
257, Dyresburg, TN
Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

- 1 LEX LUGER**
290, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 2 THE UNDERTAKER**
320, Dallas, TX
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 3 NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Lithuania
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 4 SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
- 5 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6 RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
- 7 STEVE AUSTIN**
241, Dallas, TX
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 8 LEATHERFACE**
322, parts unknown
Last issue: unrated
- 9 THE MOUNTIE**
232, Montreal, Quebec
Last issue: unrated
- 10 DIAMOND STUDD**
290, Tampa, FL
Last issue: unrated

For period ended July 26, 1991

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- 1—LEX LUGER72 points
- 2—STING68 points
- 3—CURT HENNIG67 points
- 4—HULK HOGAN64 points
- 5—RIC FLAIR63 points

TAG TEAMS

- 1—RICK & SCOTT STEINER.....72 points
- 2—THE NASTY BOYS62 points
- 3—THE LEGION OF DOOM58 points
- 4—FREEBIRDS53 points
- 5—THE HART FOUNDATION.....50 points

UWF

UWF TV Champion:
STEVE WILLIAMS

(C) 265, Norman, OK

- 1—PAUL ORNDORFF**
(3) 253, Brandon, FL
- 2—BOB ORTON**
(5) 245, Kansas City, KS
- 3—BRIAN BLAIR**
(-) 235, Tampa, FL
- 4—STEVE RAY**
(-) 255, Leavenworth, KS
- 5—FIRE CAT**
(-) 226, parts unknown
- 6—JOSHUA BEN-GURION**
(-) 270, Israel
- 7—CUBAN ASSASSIN**
(-) 246, Havana, Cuba
- 8—SUPER NINJA**
(-) 270, Tokyo, Japan
- 9—IVAN KOLOFF**
(9) 249, Moscow, Russia
- 10—SUNNY BEACH**
(7) 270, Santa Monica, CA

IWCCW

IWCCW Champion:
NONE

To be determined

- 1—TONY ATLAS**
(1) 247, Roanoke, VA
- 2—TASMANIAC**
(3) 245, Tasmania
- 3—TITO SANTANA**
(4) 245, Toluca, Mexico
- 4—MONDO KLEEN**
(5) 270, Jilin, China
- 5—KEVIN VON ERICH**
(2) 235, Denton, TX
- 6—JOE SAVOLDI**
(7) 220, Parsippany, NJ
- 7—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
(6) 360, Khartoum, Sudan
- 8—SCOTT PUTSKI**
(9) 235, Austin, TX
- 9—RAY ODYSSEY**
(8) 205, Palm Beach, FL
- 10—CURLY MOE**
(10) 555, Mudville, OH

GEORGIA: Georgia All-Star champion—Joel Deaton; 1—Billy Black; 2—Chris Walker; 3—Fabian; 4—Curtis Thompson; 5—Festus; 6—Jon Michaels; 7—Big Bully Busick; 8—Mad Dog Joe; 9—Mike Cervich; 10—Randy Rose.

IWA: IWA champion—Manny Fernandez; 1—Preston Steele; 2—Larry Cameron; 3—Jules Strongbow; 4—The Terminator; 5—Derrick Dukes; 6—Paul Orndorff; 7—Kamala; 8—Master Blaster; 9—Thunderfoot I; 10—The Gladiator.

LPWA: LPWA champion—Lady X; 1—Reggie Bennett; 2—Terri Power; 3—Susan Sexton; 4—Bambi; 5—Madusa Miceli; 6—Misty Blue Simmes; 7—Denise Storm; 8—Heidi Lee Morgan; 9—The Beast; 10—Magnificent Mimi.

PNW: PNW champion—Steve Doll; 1—Jimmy Jack Funk; 2—Ron Harris; 3—The Grappler; 4—Doug Masters; 5—Steve Sawyer; 6—Mike Winner; 7—Larry Oliver; 8—John Rambo; 9—C.W. Bergstrom; 10—Al Madrid.

PWA: PWA champion—Charlie Norris; 1—Teijho Khan; 2—Larry Cameron; 3—Ken Patera; 4—Ricky Rice; 5—Tommy Ferrara; 6—Tommy Jammer; 7—Bill Irwin; 8—The Punisher; 9—Lightning Kid; 10—Jerry Lynn.

TRI-STATE: Tri-State champion—D.C. Drake; 1—J.T. Smith; 2—Larry Winters; 3—Tony Stetson; 4—Johnny Hot Body; 5—Cactus Jack; 6—Rockin' Rebel; 7—Jimmy Jannetty; 8—C.N. Redd; 9—Cry Baby Waldo; 10—Mr. Sandman.

WWC: WWC champion—Carlos Colon; 1—Polynesian Prince; 2—King Kong; 3—Super Medic III; 4—TNT; 5—Invader I; 6—Abdullah the Butcher; 7—Rod Price; 8—Giant Warrior; 9—Miguel Perez Jr.; 10—Hurricane Castillo Jr.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

More championship changes. In our last issue, we took time out from our usual format to look back on the past 25 years of *The Wrestler*. Much has happened since then to cause many dramatic changes in our rankings.

On July 1, WCW officials announced that seven-time World champion **Ric Flair** had left the federation and was being stripped of his title. The reason given for this shocking decision was a contract impasse between the "Nature Boy" and WCW. Since the two sides were unable to come up with a mutually satisfactory contract, Flair opted to leave WCW, the federation he had dominated for the past 11 years.



Lex Luger

Because of this, the steel cage main event of the pay-per-view Great American Bash on July 14 in Baltimore was changed to U.S. champion **Lex Luger** against **Barry Windham** for the vacant World title. Luger pinned Windham to win the belt, which immediately raised his status from number three in our Top 10 to number two. Since Flair is currently inactive, he drops out of all of our ratings categories completely.

Luger's victory came at a great cost to his popularity. His title victory—during which his new adviser, **Harley Race**, and bodyguard, **Mr. Hughes**, made their first appearances with Luger—propelled him to number one in our Most Hated ratings. In our last issue, Luger was number two in our Most Popular ratings!

The World title wasn't the only WCW championship in limbo during this ratings period. Since he captured the World title, Luger was forced to relinquish his U.S. belt, since WCW bylaws do not allow champions to hold more than one title. The U.S. title was scheduled to be filled during a one-night tournament on August 25 at The Omni in Atlanta. At press time, the top contender for the vacant title was **Nikita Koloff**, who had engaged in many hard-fought matches against Luger in the weeks before the Baltimore Bash.

And even *that's* not all: The World tag team title, last held by **Rick and Scott Steiner**, was held up in July when Scott could not defend the belt within 30 days because of a seriously torn left bicep. The vacant title was the subject

of a tournament that began in mid-July and is expected to end in September. Top contenders for the World tag team championship are **The Hardliners** (**Dick Murdoch** and **Dick Slater**), **Larry Zbyszko** and **Arn Anderson**, and **The Young Pistols**.

Welcome Global! Effective with this issue, we're adding the Global Wrestling Federation to our monthly rankings. This federation, new to the U.S., features top young stars such as **Chris Walker**, **Mahkan Singh**, and **Big Bully Busick**. The first GWF TV champion is **The Patriot**, while **Lightning Kid** has captured the federation's light heavyweight title.

The new *Global Supercard* program can be seen daily on ESPN, while the syndicated *Global Major League Wrestling* is now being viewed on more than 100 stations across the U.S. and Canada. Quite a debut!

Suggestion box. As usual, we received many interesting questions since our last edition.

Why don't you run a poll for your readers to see if they would like a unification bout between the WCW and WWF champions? asked Charles Lemons Jr. of Okay, Oklahoma. *I know I would! Boxing has unified its heavyweight titles, so why can't wrestling? If the results of your poll are positive, maybe you could send them to the heads of the WCW and WWF. Just think of the money and the crowd a pay-per-view unification card would bring!*

Okay, Charles, we agree. The prospect of a title-unification bout between Luger and WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** has the potential to be the biggest match of the century—but don't count on it ever happening.

Even if we gathered the signatures of every fan of the mat sport, it seems unlikely that we'll see the federations—who consider themselves competitors rather than associated leagues (such as the National and American Leagues in Major League Baseball)—ever agree to hold joint cards. But who knows what the future of this wild sport will bring?

That's all, folks. Care to comment on our latest ratings? Want to express your desire to see title-unification bouts? Send your mail to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. ☐

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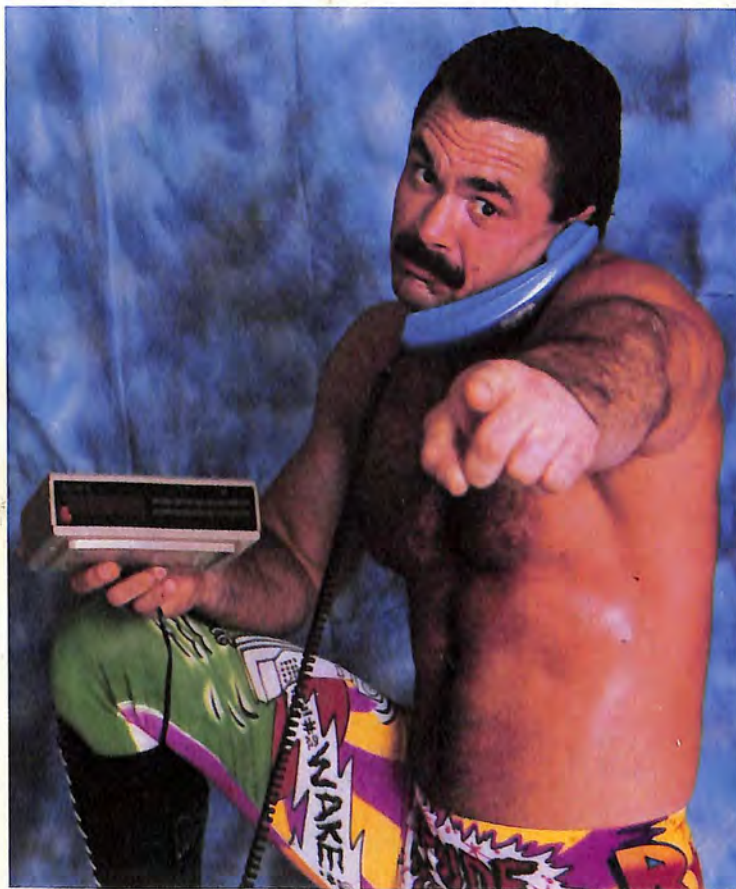
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